

Meese has no intention of resigning

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese has no intention of resigning despite investigations of his role in the Iran-contra scandal and a defence contractor controversy, a senior Justice Department aide said Tuesday. William Bradford Reynolds, assistant attorney general for civil rights, told reporters Mr. Meese has been "very much at the helm during what may well be one of the department's most active and productive years." Mr. Meese has been involved in Lawrence Walsh's criminal investigation of the Iran-contra case and James McKay's inquiry into the defence firm Matter. Both men are court-appointed independent counsels. Mr. Reynolds blamed the news media for raising the idea that Mr. Meese might resign. "Over the past several months there has been some particularly bizarre speculation among several columnists and commentators, who have regularly demonstrated that they have little else to contribute — speculation that the attorney general might resign," he said. "As we head into 1988, I should make it clear that resignation is the farthest thing from Attorney General Meese's thoughts," Mr. Reynolds said.

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Rifai visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister and Defence Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday called at the Armed Forces General Headquarters (GHQ) and met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb and his aide for planning, organisation and electronic warfare and the commander of the Royal Air Force.

Jordan gets \$15m IDB loan

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend a \$15 million loan to Jordan for the import of crude oil from a member country. The credit was signed here by IDB President Ahmad Mohammad Ali and the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Rasool Al Keilani. This brings total IDB financing to Jordan since August this year to \$41.6 million.

EEC extends aid to Gaza

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Economic Community (EEC) announced Tuesday it is granting 200,000 European currency units (\$256,000) worth of emergency supplies to the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. The EC commission said the grant was made in response to an appeal from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees. The 12-nation EC provides about 20 per cent of the agency's annual budget. The commission said most of the money is intended to buy medical supplies and baby food for the Palestinian population of Gaza.

Sabbah heads for Rome

TEL AVIV (R) — Michel Sabbah, named by Pope John Paul as the first Arab to be Latin (Roman Catholic) patriarch of Jerusalem, left for Rome on Tuesday. Father Sabbah, 54, a Palestinian, will be the first man born in the Holy Land to be patriarch of Jerusalem. His appointment was announced by the Vatican on Monday. "As a man of goodwill I shall do the best I can to contribute to peace in the Middle East," he told reporters as he left on an Alitalia flight for his consecration ceremony at the Vatican on Jan. 6. He said he would stay in Rome for a week after the ceremony and then return to Jerusalem to take up his new post.

Soviet team to leave Israel next month

TEL AVIV (R) — The first Soviet mission to visit Israel in 20 years is expected to leave for Moscow within a few weeks following a six-month stay. The Jerusalem Post reported on Tuesday. The English-language newspaper said the eight-man consular delegation has had no work since it renewed several hundred passports of Soviet citizens and hired Israeli lawyers to handle Soviet property interests. Asked about the newspaper report, a spokesman for the Soviet mission declined comment.

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Senate unanimously endorses JD 1.075b budget for 1988

Rifai calls for more private sector involvement in development and explains measures aimed at serving national goals

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Tuesday unanimously endorsed Jordan's 1988 fiscal budget, thus completing the constitutional process of the legislature's approval of the JD 1.075 billion bill.

A Royal Decree is expected to be issued in the next few days to allow actual spending of the budget allocations.

The Senate's approval by acclamation of the budget followed hearing of an in-depth report on the bill prepared by the Senate's Financial Committee and debate.

The 1988 budget reflects estimated increases in both expenditure and local revenues and projects a deficit of JD 66.9 million to be covered by improvement of the local sources of revenue and methods of tax collection, controlling public expenditure and through local and foreign borrowings.

It reflects a 0.6 increase over

the 1987 reestimated budget.

In reply to the Financial Committee's findings and recommendations and remarks made by nine senators who spoke during the four-hour session, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai pledged the government would control expenditure and closely scrutinise capital and current spending. Mr. Rifai also reiterated the government's decision to use all overdue instalments of expected Arab financial aid to Jordan to repay the country's foreign debts and lower Jordan's accumulated deficit which stands at JD 259 million.

He said the government was seeking to use available revenues to further consolidate the coun-



try's economic infrastructure and provide a more suitable climate for investments. These measures, he said, will boost national production capabilities to meet local needs for services and commodities, increase the country's export output to improve the country's balance of trade and payments and offer more job opportunities and attract further Arab and foreign capital investments. The prime minister called on

the private sector to enhance its role through taking more initiatives in the areas of investment, production, marketing and exports and said the government was by no means competing with the private enterprise in areas related to constructions, trade, and tourism.

"On the contrary, we support private sector initiatives. We only participate in investments when the private sector does not participate in such investments or when higher public interests are involved," said Mr. Rifai.

He said the aim of the government was to transfer all public investments to the private sector. "We are ready to sell our shares in public projects," he said.

Echoing remarks made by the Senate Financial Committee, Mr. Rifai said the annual and accumulated debts resulted from a sharp decline in Arab financial aid.

Explaining this point further, the prime minister said: "We had to honour our financial commitments resulting from programmes

(Continued on page 5)

GCC to press Security Council for sanctions against Tehran

Riyadh summit ends with call on Iran to opt for peace and reaffirming support for Palestinians

RIYADH (Agencies) — Gulf Arab states will send envoys to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to press for sanctions against Tehran, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said on Tuesday.

He told a news conference at the end of a four-day Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit that Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire was the best way to end the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

"There will be missions to the permanent Security Council members to reinforce efforts expended to reach an agreement on the implementation of 598," Prince Saud said.

"The position taken by the

summit is (for the U.N.) to issue a decision to implement the resolution and to impose sanctions on the state that does not implement it," he said.

Iran has so far refused to accept the July resolution, insisting that Iraq first be condemned as "the aggressor."

The GCC — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — issued no direct criticism of Iran but appealed to it to accept the U.N. initiative and improve relations with the GCC on the basis of mutual respect.

This appeared to be a concession to GCC members Oman and the UAE which have good ties with Iran and have called for dialogue and friendly overtures as

a means of reducing tension.

The Security Council is preparing to discuss an arms embargo against Iran as a way of ending the war which has spilled into Gulf shipping lanes and drawn more than 80 foreign warships into the area to protect international shipping.

"The ball is now in Iran's court," Prince Saud said. "It is the interest and hope of all Arab countries that Iran responds to the call of peace."

Prince Saud said if Iran failed to respond, "countries that are attacked will defend themselves of course."

(Continued on page 4)

Full text of summit communiqué appears on page 2

Austria denies allowing Iranian Jews to go to Israel

KUWAIT (AP) — Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha was quoted Tuesday as saying some Iranian Jews emigrate to the United States through his country, but said Austria did not permit them to go to Israel.

"Some American organisations do help Iranian Jews to emigrate to the United States via Vienna, but none of them go to Israel because we do not permit this," Mr. Blecha was quoted as telling Kuwait's daily Al Qabas newspaper.

Mr. Blecha, who is visiting Kuwait, was responding to news reports that Iranian officials were permitting Jews from that country to go to Israel as part of a deal for Israeli arms.

Al Qabas said the minister denounced Israel's methods of suppressing Palestinian protests and said his country supports the Palestinian right to self-determination.

"Oppression cannot be practiced against any people. Therefore we support the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their full rights and their homeland and (we) do differentiate between nationalist struggle and international terrorism," Mr. Blecha was quoted as saying.

Syria deploys special forces opposite Israeli-held area

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria has deployed a 700-strong contingent of its elite special forces opposite Israel's self-designated "security zone" in southeast Lebanon, police reported Tuesday.

A police spokesman said the Syrian troops took up positions over the weekend around the Bekaa Valley town of Mashgara, four kilometres north of the "security zone."

The force, according to the spokesman, is equipped with Soviet-made 107-millimetre multi-barrelled rocket launchers, 122-millimetre howitzers and anti-aircraft guns.

The Syrians have traditionally maintained some 60 soldiers in Mashgara, 48 kilometres south-east of Beirut.

"Syrian infantrymen have been patrolling the terrain north of the security zone in the Mashgara area since Sunday," added the police spokesman.

Tension has been high throughout South Lebanon in anticipation of Israeli retaliatory action since Nov. 26. That day, a Palestinian commando crossed the border in a mechanised hang-glider and shot dead six Israeli troops in an army camp in northern Israel before being gunned down.

Israel created the "security zone" following the withdrawal

of the bulk of its forces from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985. The narrow strip extends from the Mediterranean coast to the foothills of snow-capped Mount Hermon.

The zone is patrolled jointly by Israeli troops and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA). Resistance fighters have been launching frequent attacks against these forces in recent weeks.

In one of the heaviest engagements, 12 people were killed and 15 wounded following a guerrilla raid into the zone last week that provoked Israeli artillery retaliation against Nabatiyeh and other towns in South Lebanon.

Syria maintains 25,000 troops in eastern and northern Lebanese provinces under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League.

Syria deployed an additional 7,500 troops in west Beirut on Feb. 22 at the invitation of Muslim leaders, in an effort to end three years of militia anarchy.

In another Lebanese development, police reported that four unidentified men were shot dead in the west Beirut Tuesday.

A brief police statement said the four bullet-riddled bodies were taken to a hospital, without further elaboration.

Prince Hassan begins talks in Ankara

ANKARA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal opened talks here on Tuesday on bilateral relations and means to further strengthen them.

The talks were attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Ziyad Faris. On the Turkish side the talks were attended by several cabinet members.

The Crown Prince, accompanied by Mr. Masri and Mr. Faris, arrived here earlier in the day on an official visit during which he is also expected to hold talks with

President Kenan Evren. Upon arrival in Ankara airport, Prince Hassan was received by Mr. Ozal, a number of cabinet ministers and senior Turkish officials, and the Jordanian ambassador to Turkey.

Upon departure from Amman, Prince Hassan was seen off by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Cabinet ministers and senior civil and military officials, in addition to the Turkish Ambassador to Jordan.

The Crown Prince's visit to Turkey follows a state visit paid by His Majesty King Hussein earlier this year. The Jordan

News Agency, Petra, said the Crown Prince would brief Turkish leaders on the outcome of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman.

Another topic to be discussed during the Crown Prince's talks in Ankara is a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Amman in March 1988. Petra said the Crown Prince, in his talks with Mr. Ozal on Tuesday, expressed Jordan's keen interest in hosting the conference and said he was looking forward for his meeting with President Evren for an exchange of views on issues of interest to the entire region.

Israel continues summary trials and mass arrests of Palestinians

Rabin says U.S. cannot stop expulsion of Arabs

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli occupation authorities on Tuesday continued trials of Palestinians arrested in anti-occupation demonstrations that began Dec. 8 and also pursued a mass arrest campaign in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, vowed that the occupation authorities would expel Palestinians from the occupied territories despite American and international protests.

Reuters sources quoted Rabin as telling parliamentary committee: "We know the U.S. position... we will tell the U.S. we have expelled, are expelling and will continue to expel (Palestinian activists) from the (occupied) territories."

On Monday, officials in Washington warned Israeli

embassy counsellor Oded Eran against a widespread expulsion of Palestinians rounded up in the wake of the protests.

At least 1,000 Palestinians were detained, on suspicion of organising the protests and to pre-empt further demonstrations on Jan. 1, the 23rd anniversary of the foundation of Fatah, sources told Reuters.

There were plans to expel 50 Palestinians, the sources said.

But foreign ministry spokesman Ehud Gol said no decision had been made on whether "security" offenders would be banished and if so in what numbers. Political sources said a decision could come at a session of Israel's inner cabinet on Wednesday.

The army's judge advocate general, Brigadier Amnon Strassnov, told Israel Radio there were no plans for mass deportations, saying: "Every case will be dealt with on an individual basis."

Israeli military courts in the occupied territories continued large-scale trials on Tuesday of hundreds of Palestinians seized in recent weeks, most of them young.

A military source said first reports from the military court in Hebron showed 17 cases had been opened and adjourned until Thursday after all defendants pleaded not guilty. Other trials were under way in Ramallah, Tulkarm and Nablus.

In Gaza City, two military courts were in session and army radio reported 30 cases were heard. Twenty defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced to between 20 and 90 days imprisonment and heavy fines.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said army trucks brought at least 50 prisoners to court and in one case seven youths were jailed for organising demonstrations and carrying sticks, described as weapons by the military prosecutor.

Word of the preparations came as Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa travelled to Tehran for the second time in a week with a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

His visit followed a trip to Riyadh where he was reported to have told Arab Gulf heads of state that Syria was ready to mediate with Iran to stop bloodshed in the Gulf war.

Syria has been Iran's ally in the seven-year-old conflict, but at last month's Arab summit in Amman Mr. Assad agreed to a resolution condemning Tehran for refusing to make peace.

His Majesty King Hussein, who has toiled to mend the rift between Mr. Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said they had reconciled at the Amman summit.

In an interview with the Soviet newspaper Izvestia last week, the King said the Amman summit had made concrete progress in the way of inter-Arab relations, particularly Syrian-Iraqi ties.

No official Iraqi-Syrian contacts have been announced, but the two countries have halted mutually hostile media campaigns and restored telephone links between their capitals. A group of Syrian businessmen visited Baghdad in November.

Israeli soldier attacked

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— An Israeli soldier was wounded by a Palestinian in the West Bank town of Nablus on Tuesday, military sources reported.

They said the soldier was only slightly hurt and that troops captured the assailant after wounding him with rubber bullets.

Palestinian sources said Israeli troops continued to make arrests overnight in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. No figures were available on the number of new arrests.

Outside one tribunal in Nablus, the largest city in the occupied West Bank, relatives and defence lawyers complained the army was unable to determine where some prisoners were incarcerated.

Inside, a military judge chastised police for failing to gather almost half of the prisoners due to appear.

Attorneys said their clients were being mistreated and could not receive fair trials in military court.

"There is no use appearing," said Fayed Abu Rahma, one of 300 attorneys from the Gaza Strip who are boycotting the hearings. West Bank defence attorneys said they were considering joining the boycott.

In Nablus, crowds of relatives and friends waited anxiously outside military headquarters as about 35 Arabs from two nearby prisons arrived on buses guarded by soldiers with submachine guns.

Proceedings also were held at four other locations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza Strip, all but 10 of the 60 prisoners tried confessed to the charges and were convicted, officials said. Many received three-month prison terms.

(Continued on page 3)

Chamber of Industry elects new directors

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Results of the Amman Chamber of Industry's elections for a new board of directors held on Tuesday were pending the conclusion of the vote count which continued through midnight at the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

The 39 candidates, their supporters and hundreds of representatives of industrial institutions in the Kingdom packed the hall of the chamber as the election committee carried out the vote count. The results were expected to be announced in the early hours of Wednesday.

Industry and Trade Minister Rajai Muasher, who inspected the voting process, urged the elected chamber board to play a more effective role in the development of the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein had given the Chamber of Industry a great attention with

his patronage of the 25th anniversary of the chamber's establishment. Dr. Muasher said he hoped that the new council would rise to the level of its responsibility and referred to the support provided by the government for the chamber and industrialists through subsidising production, providing protection for local industries and raising custom fees on foreign products.

The minister said he hoped the elections would produce good representatives capable of proper representation and of safeguarding the interests of industry and the national economy.

Voting began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 6:30 p.m. following which the vote counting started. Representatives of 490 industrial institutions voted out of the total 551.

Thirty-nine candidates competed for the 12 seats: 36 were running within three electoral blocs and four were running independently.

U.S. to consider U.N. naval presence for Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Monday it would be willing to study without commitment a Soviet proposal for the creation of a U.N. naval force for the Gulf if the U.N. Security Council approves an arms embargo against Iran.

Deputy spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said, however, that the United States would oppose any linkage between the proposed U.N. naval force and the U.S. task force in the Gulf, which has been deployed to protect U.S. shipping.

The Soviets have proposed the creation of a U.N. naval force to police an arms embargo against Iran.

The Security Council issued a statement last Thursday indicating it was ready to begin drafting an embargo resolution, which

Deported Iranians arrive in Dubai

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A group of eight Iranians deported screaming and threatening suicide from Yugoslavia arrived back in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

The four men, three women and a four-year-old boy, had arrived in Belgrade from Dubai on Saturday seeking to emigrate to Canada, but without valid visas.

The Yugoslav authorities deported them on Monday, putting them forcibly aboard a flight back to Dubai as they screamed and kicked in protest.

The Kuwait agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the group arrived in Dubai early Tuesday. It quoted eyewitnesses as saying the group gesticulated violently as they disembarked from the plane, declaring their refusal to be returned to Iran.

There was no immediate statement from the authorities in Dubai about the eventual fate of the group.

The Canadian embassy in Belgrade on Monday cancelled falsified Canadian visas found in the group's passports, the Tanjug News Agency reported.

Svetin Frleta, an official of the

N.U. High Commission for Refugees in Belgrade, said the commission could do nothing for the group.

"They do not have refugee status," she told the Associated Press.

Ms. Frleta said they did not have relatives in Canada, return tickets from Canada or enough money to support themselves. She said one of the Iranians claimed to have a brother in the United States, but did not know where.

The male Iranians decided to escape from their country after authorities in Tehran refused to honour medical certificates exempting them from military call-up, one of them said earlier.

"Several policemen" had to force members of the group onto the plane to take them back to Dubai, the Belgrade airport official told the AP by telephone.

A special police escort was put aboard the flight to watch the group and prevent any incidents until the plane's landing in Dubai, said the official who refused to be identified by name.

"They punched and kicked with their legs and arms while escorted to the plane, and

enforcement resolution and she called for prompt action.

White House officials have been cool to the notion of a U.N. naval force to police an arms embargo, but U.S. officials said the cautious interest Ms. Oakley expressed did not represent a policy change.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said that Secretary of State George Shultz had said earlier this month that the United States did not want to reject the Soviet proposal out of hand.

Mr. Shultz has said he opposes any plan to create a U.N. force simultaneously with approval of an arms embargo resolution. He has also said that the best way to ensure that an embargo is effective is to persuade all countries to abide by it.

The group, which included a pregnant woman, had spent two nights in a transit area of the Belgrade airport.

Earlier Monday, a spokesman for the group said: "Now, the Iranian police is ready for us, since they know who we are from Western newspapers and TV reports."

The spokesman insisted on anonymity.

"There is nothing left for us to do but commit suicide since we would for sure be deported from Dubai to Iran," he said.

Yugoslavia receives and processes political refugees, mostly from Eastern Europe, but shies from too much publicity because of its sensitive, non-aligned status.

Last year 1,001 foreigners, more than two-thirds of them Iranians, were returned to their original departure airports from Belgrade, Tanjug said.

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Abu Nidal group to hand 2 children to father

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian commando group led by Abu Nidal said on Tuesday it was arranging to release two young children seized with six adults from a yacht in the Mediterranean.

The Fateh Revolutionary Council said in a statement it had been ordered by its leaders to work on moving Marie-Laure, 5, and Virginie Valente, 6, "to France in the nearest possible time to hand them over to their father."

"Our movement is working with concerned parties to move the two girls to one of the Arab capitals," said the statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

The type-written statement was accompanied by a coloured photograph of the two girls.

The children appeared to be in good health. They were pictured wearing identical dark brown sweaters and sitting in front of a Palestinian flag.

The statement was signed by Walid Khaled who first announced on Nov. 8 that seaborne Abu Nidal commandos had captured six adults and two small girls in a seaborne operation off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Khaled said those captured were Israelis but Israel said it had no record of them either as residents or visitors and they were later identified in France and Belgium as European Roman Catholics.

The statement said the decision to free the girls was taken "in the light of explanations by different friends in France" and of humanitarian efforts by some Arab states.

It said the unnamed Arab states would help move the children "on condition that their safety will be guaranteed without the interference of hostile sides."

The youngsters would be moved to an Arab capital accompanied by a group of children of "Palestinian martyrs," the statement said. It did not elaborate.

On Dec. 27 the group said it would withhold news on the eight captives in order to keep attention focused on unrest in Israeli-occupied territories in which at least 22 Palestinians have died this month.

The new statement was an apparent response to a group contact who told French radio on Saturday that the two girls would be released.

Lucien Bitterlin, president of the French-Arab Solidarity Association, quoting a "reliable source," said the guerrilla group would free the girls in the next couple of weeks.

Main points of GCC summit statement

RIYADH (R) — Gulf Arab states on Tuesday ended a four-day summit with a call on the United Nations to implement its resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Following is a Reuters translation of the main passages from the final communiqué:

The GCC calls on the international community and especially the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility in adopting the measures to implement it (Resolution 598).

The council expressed hope that Iran would take a stand that would respond to the will of the international community and to the call of the Islamic nation to end the war, to make peace and preserve its resources to counter the enemies of the Islamic nation.

It calls on Iran to commit itself to the principles of good neighbourliness and mutual respect to keep the Gulf region away from international conflict.

It exchanged views on the dangerous escalation which threatens the security and stability of the member countries and international navigation, which exposes the region to international conflict.

The council expressed its backing for the Palestinian uprising and support with all material and financial means and requested the presidency to

While stressing the resolutions of the extraordinary summit held in Amman in November which expressed the joint Arab stand toward the war and to which the GCC countries are committed, it expresses its appreciation of Iraq's positive response toward the Security Council resolution and its readiness to implement it.

It notes with regret Iran's attempt to procrastinate on the implementation of the resolution.

The council discussed the Mecca incident and the sabotage caused by the Iranians near the House of Allah and the Iranian missile attacks and aggression against Kuwait which were aimed at destabilising its security and stability, and the Iranian aggression against the Kuwaiti and Saudi embassies in Tehran in addition to the attacks against oil tankers and commercial vessels bound for Gulf ports, which constitutes a violation of international law.

The council expressed its backing for the Palestinian uprising and support with all material and financial means and requested the presidency to

send a letter to U.N. Security Council members on the issue.

The uprising is a new phase which requires the convening of an international peace conference with participation of all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The council approved the security strategy and expressed its satisfaction over what has been achieved in the security field. It stressed the necessity of adopting further steps to protect the accomplishments of the council members in security cooperation.

The council approved recommendations of defence ministers on military cooperation and stressed the importance of self-reliance among member countries.

It agreed to allow GCC citizens to practice a number of economic activities in new fields. It also agreed to allow GCC citizens to practice additional professions according to the regulations of liberal professions.

It also ratified the oil loaning agreement.

The leaders mandated the foreign ministers to start official

negotiations with the European Community.

They reviewed recent developments in the international oil market and stressed the necessity of preserving stability in the market and the necessity of abiding by the OPEC resolutions by all member countries and stopping direct and indirect discounts.

The council also expressed its support for OPEC efforts and the commitment of the member countries to abide by individual quotas according to OPEC's recent agreement which aims at preserving prices at \$18 a barrel.

It calls on non-OPEC countries to cooperate with OPEC to achieve stability in the market by reducing their surplus production.

It expressed its utmost concern towards protectionist measures especially those which Japan is preparing to implement regarding the imposition of taxes and tariffs on its imports of crude oil and products which will obstruct international free trade.

The council renewed the mandate of Secretary General Abdullah Bishara for one year.

Iranian hunger strikers in Gabon hospital

LONDON (R) — Two of 12 Iranians on hunger strike since they were expelled from France three weeks ago to Gabon, West Africa, have been taken to hospital, the main Iranian opposition group said on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the People's Mujahadeen Organisation told Reuters that the two were taken to hospital after their condition deteriorated.

"The president (of Gabon) went to meet them and because of his request they agreed to take liquids," he said.

France expelled a total of 17 Iranian dissidents and exiles to Gabon, in a move which was seen as connected to the release of two French hostages held in Lebanon by a pro-Iranian group.

The spokesman said hunger strikes in solidarity with the 12 Iranians were entering their third week in London, Washington,

Paris and Madrid.

He said three hunger strikers in Paris and one in London had been taken to hospital for treatment since the protests began.

The hunger strikers are demanding that the refugees be allowed back into France. Paris has said they were expelled because they were members of the Mujahadeen and "threatened the peace" in France.

6 killed in Iranian plane crash

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A training plane attempting to land at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Tuesday crashed into a residential area killing six people and injuring "several others," the official news agency reported.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, did not give a specific figure on injuries nor the type of plane.

Falangists mourn death of veteran diplomat

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Falangists on Tuesday mourned Charles Malik, veteran diplomat and one of two surviving signatories of the United Nations 1945 Charter.

Malik, 81, died on Monday after a long illness. His funeral will take place on Wednesday in Christian east Beirut and he will be buried in his northern hometown of Bteram.

Members of the mainly Maronite Christian "Lebanese Front," which Greek Orthodox Malik helped set up after Lebanon's civil war erupted in 1975, met on Tuesday to arrange the funeral.

President Amin Gemayel in remarks to news media called Malik's loss "a big one because of his great intellectual and national role in building the Lebanon of the future."

In 1985, Mr. Malik was one of the three surviving signatories to attend celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

The others were American

Harold Stassen and former Philippines Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo, who has since died.

Malik was a powerful defender of Arab and Palestinian views as Lebanon's representative to the U.N. where he was a member of the Security Council in 1953-54. But his attitude to other Arabs became more critical later.

He was foreign minister in 1956-58 under the late President Camille Chamoun who fought Lebanon's first outbreak of hostilities between Falangists and pro-Palestinian opposition.

Mr. Malik was considered largely responsible for seeking the assistance of the U.S. Sixth Fleet to help crush Mr. Chamoun's Arab Nationalist opponents.

With the outbreak of 1975 civil war in Lebanon he emerged as a major right-wing political figure and a powerful backer of hardline Falangist opposition to growing Syrian and Palestinian influence in the country.

None of Lebanon's opposition or pro-Syrian politicians or militia leaders mourned Mr. Malik's death.

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.S. navy warships escorted a convoy toward Kuwait on Tuesday including the supertanker Bridgeton for the first time since it hit a mine during the first U.S. convoy of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers.

Shipping executives reported that hours before the convoy passed through the Hormuz, Iranian Navy warships intercepted and seized the 31,205-ton German freighter Norasia Pearl.

They said it was taken to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. The Iranians usually intercept ships they believe are carrying cargo for Iraq, and return them after they go through the cargo

and seize anything they think would be of value to their enemy.

The Gulf-based shipping executives reported the convoy of U.S.-flag tankers being shepherded by U.S. Navy warships through the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf early Tuesday.

The U.S. Central Command, based in Tampa, Florida, confirmed the report and listed the 401,382-ton Bridgeton, sixth largest tanker in the world, and another reflagged Kuwaiti tanker, the 81,283-ton Surf City, in the convoy along with two navy-chartered tankers, the Rover and the Gianella.

Demjanjuk takes stand to bolster credibility

TEL AVIV (AP) — A flustered John Demjanjuk took the stand in his Nazi war crimes trial Tuesday to contradict testimony by another defence witness about his whereabouts after World War II.

Demjanjuk's testimony dealt with a minor issue and appeared aimed mainly at bolstering his credibility which suffered a blow when he first took the stand in July, often contradicting himself.

In a heated session Tuesday, the usually placid Demjanjuk repeatedly raised his voice when prosecutor Michael Shaked and presiding Judge Dov Levine ac-

cused him of being inconsistent.

At issue was the testimony by psychologist Willem Wagenaar who said last month that Demjanjuk served with the German police in 1946.

Demjanjuk said he served with the police in 1951, not 1946. Leaning forward and pointing with his left hand, he repeatedly referred to a black-and-white photograph showing him in a German police uniform.

Asked why he hadn't made the correction earlier, Demjanjuk said he was ill and absent from the court on the day of Wag-

enaar's testimony.

But Shaked did not accept the explanation. "I will tell you only gently, you are mistaken," he said. "The transcript shows you were here that day," and absent only the next week.

Demjanjuk conceded the error, saying in a loud voice: "If so, I'm only mixing the witnesses and dates up."

Demjanjuk, 67, a retired auto-worker from the Cleveland area, is accused of being the guard "Ivan the terrible" who operated the gas chambers in the Treblinka Camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES			
PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 15:55 Woodie Woodpecker 16:20 Children's programme 18:10 Local series 19:00 Cairo Newsletter 19:15 Local Programme 19:45 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:30 Cultural programme 22:20 Wrestling 23:00 News summary		EXHIBITIONS * An art exhibition by Samir Mashat at the Spanish Cultural Centre - Jabal Amman (until Dec. 31). * An art exhibition entitled "The Architect of Mamluk Jerusalem" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the British Council (until Dec. 30). * An exhibition of photos and documents about the Great Arab Revolt at the Royal Cultural Centre.		ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:15 Agaba (RJ) 09:30 Cairo (RJ) 09:30 Kuwait (RJ) 09:30 Damascus (RJ) 09:30 Dhahran (RJ) 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:30 Cairo (RJ) 10:30 Athens (RJ) 10:30 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 10:40 London, Geneva (RJ) 10:45 Istanbul (RJ) 10:50 Madrid, Belgrade (RJ) 10:55 Bangkok (RJ) 10:55 Riyadh (RJ) 10:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 10:55 Sydney, Kuala Lumpur (add. (RJ)) 23:55 Baghdad (RJ)		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:30 Cairo, London (BA) 08:30 Larnaca, Zurich (SR) 08:30 Beirut (ME) 08:30 Damascus, Tripoli (PK) 08:30 Cairo (MS) 10:30 Tripoli (LN) 13:05 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) 14:00 Damascus, Sana'a (YF) 15:00 Kuwait (RJ) 16:30 Baghdad (RJ) 16:40 Medina, Jeddah (SV) 23:15 Karachi (PK)		GENERAL Amman governorate 891238 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence (Raid) 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quesneir 707033 Civil Defence Deir Alla 5736 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630341 Blood Bank 661111 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622090, 63 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 630141 Traffic police 776300 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624851 Municipal water complaints 771125/8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06)5333060	
PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 French programme 17:45 "Champs Elysees" - Variety programme 19:00 News in French 19:15 Local magazine: "Aujourd'hui en Jordanie" 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Sport School 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:10 Documentary: "Well-being - Name Your Poison" 22:00 News in English 22:20 Flooded 23:10 Hi De Hi - "Peggy's Big Chance"		INDIAN FILM WEEK * An Indian film week at the Royal Cultural Centre daily at 6:00 p.m. (Dec. 26 - 31). FILM * "Marlene" (colour) at the Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:00 Agaba (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:30 Athens (RJ) 12:00 Geneva, London (RJ) 12:30 Cairo (RJ) 13:30 Riyadh (RJ) 19:35 Kuwait (RJ) 19:40 Dhahran (RJ) 19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 19:55 Baghdad (RJ) 20:00 Jeddah (RJ) 20:15 Medina, Jeddah (SA) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)		NIGHT TUTY AMMAN: Dr. Arafat Al-Ashhab 602507 Dr. Adel Dardoud 892478 Dr. Youssef Hourani 625478 Dr. Akram Sirhan 594611 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 787331 Al Asena pharmacy 637053 Naroukh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 TAXIS: Kayvali taxi 636730 Taxina taxi 644660 Tamer taxi 666467 Raghdan taxi 942400 Ragab taxi 726428 Sayel taxi 776131 IRBID: Dr. Faddayeh Al-Jbour (-) Sharaz pharmacy (-) ZARQA: Dr. Azmi Khalil 931355 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417			
KHADO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19		CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267 American Centre 641371 American Centre Library 641520 British Council 6361478 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641093 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 624349 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Hava Arts Centre 665145 Hussein Youth City 667816 Y.W.M.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. 642151 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 643555		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 05:03 Fajr 06:23 Sunrise 11:33 Dhuhr 14:18 Asr 16:39 Maghrib 18:03 Isha		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (different kinds) 300 / 250 Apple (French) 160 / 100 Banana 400 / 350 Banana (Mukannam) 300 / 240 Beans 180 / 140 Beans (broad) 500 / 400 Beetroot 250 / 200 Cabbage 60 / 40 Carrot 280 / 240 Cauliflower 60 / 40 Cucumbers 220 / 180 Dates (box) 1200 / 1000 Eggplant (large) 80 / 50 Eggplant (small) 150 / 100 Garlic 400 / 300 Grapefruit 130 / 100 Lemon 160 / 100 Mandarin 160 / 120 Marrow 120 / 90 Onion (green) 120 / 100 Onion (dry) 210 / 170 Oranges (Abu surra) 300 / 240 Oranges (Shamama) 240 / 200 Pepper (hot) 200 / 180 Pepper (sweet) 100 / 70 Potato 180 / 140 Radish 60 / 40 Spinach 160 / 100 Tomatoes 160 / 100 Turnip 160 / 140			
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 7300, 95.5, 117.40, 119.25 and 15210 KHz. 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 10:40 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 11:40 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 12:40 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 13:40 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 14:40 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 15:40 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 16:40 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 17:40 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 18:40 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 19:40 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 20:40 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 21:40 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 22:40 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 23:40 News 24:00 News 01:10 World Report		MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum," Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hava Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Follidore Museum Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.		PRAYER TIMES 05:03 Fajr 06:23 Sunrise 11:33 Dhuhr 14:18 Asr 16:39 Maghrib 18:03 Isha Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be cloudy to partly cloudy, with scattered rain at times. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea. Min./max. temp. Amman 4 / 10 Agaba 7 / 19 Deserts 2 / 12 Jordan Valley 5 / 17 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Agaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 74 per cent, Agaba 30 per cent.					

Senators praise King's efforts to uphold struggle of Palestinians

House members express total support for government measures

Following are summaries and excerpts from speeches by members of Upper House of Parliament (Senate) made at Tuesday's session in which the Senate debated and unanimously approved the 1988 budget.

Senator Hassan Al Kayed

Senator Hassan Al Kayed delivered a speech in which he defended the government's budget and expressed his confidence in the King's leadership. He said the figures in the budget may have sounded daunting, but that figures are not important since budgets are a matter of principle and not of calculation.

"We looked at the figures, and we were not frightened by them... as they represent an expansion in spending, an increase in the deficit and a decline in revenues. But these are not a question of calculation; rather, they are a matter of policy and principle that should be assessed on their own, and which cannot be calculated with figures and numbers," he said.

Mr. Kayed told the Senate that he was looking at the budget with a sense of responsibility and a sense of duty. He said the budget was a reflection of the King's policy and a reflection of the government's commitment to the Palestinian struggle. He said the budget was a reflection of the King's policy and a reflection of the government's commitment to the Palestinian struggle.

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to protect their Arab national identity."

Senator Odeh hailed the Palestinian struggle against the Israeli occupation and expressed pride in their sacrifices paid in confrontation with the mad occupier's assault.

Mr. Odeh praised the government's budget: "I give my thanks and appreciation to the government of Mr. Zaid Rifai for its ambitious programme aimed at providing public services and raising their standards in the field of education, health, agriculture, energy, labour, social development, tourism, information and culture."

He congratulated Mr. Rifai, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and his Cabinet colleagues.

Senator Ahmad Tarawneh

Senator Ahmad Tarawneh said that several elements converged to affect the Kingdom's budget, including imbalances in the world financial markets; the halt in dialogue between industrialised nations and developing countries; threats to national security in the Arab region; Iran's continued rejection of peace efforts in its war with Iraq; the expansion of this war to Gulf states and Saudi Arabia; the growing Israeli threat, its appropriation of Palestinian lands and the monstrous aggression against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories; and the decline in Arab aid.

Senator Tarawneh said the government has been able to bypass all these problems by formulating a budget that gives a bright picture of our country and its capability to develop and overcome difficulties under the leadership of King Hussein.

He said the financial committee's report came as a result of a study of the general budget law, the speech by the minister of finance, the House Financial Committee's report and the prime minister's response to the report. He said the Senate report was based on a rich reserve of information and proposals which facilitated the committee's work.

Senator Mohammad Odeh Al Qar'aan

Senator Mohammad Odeh Al Qar'aan urged the government to give farmers the same privileges accorded to industries in the Kingdom. He said millions of dinars were being spent by the government to subsidise failing industries, and that part of the money spent to support one factory could have gone a long way in supporting an agricultural enterprise.

"Nobody is against industry or its encouragement if it was established on a sound economic base. Economists have always said that the economic structure begins with agriculture. Our trade delegates go all over the world trying to market our non-agricultural products. Why not send similar delegations to market our farmers' produce?" he asked.

He said the farming sector in Jordan has been supported in different ways at different stages, but that this support "has not been feasible nor effective. I am no expert on economics... I am only a witness of what is being said and heard."

Mr. Qar'aan said that supporting agriculture should not be an aberration: "It is a measure implemented by all developing and developed countries."

Senator Hazim Nusseibeh

Senator Hazim Nusseibeh delivered a speech in which he said that the general budget is a reflection of the recommendations and basis outlined by King Hussein, originally inspired by the Great Arab Revolt which aimed at the "unity of our Arab Nation, its liberty, the safety of its land, and its development and progress."

He also praised the national development boom which, he said, is currently gripping Jordan, placing it in the lead of developing countries of the world. He cited as proof the growth of the country's national budget over the years.

Senator Nusseibeh added that the increasing responsibility towards external and internal security, as well as the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied territories, should be a "joint Arab responsibility," since, at a time when distance has ceased to be a hindrance to attacks, all Arab countries are threatened, regardless of whether they are confrontation states or supporting states.

Mr. Nusseibeh called for the backing of national production towards the goal of self-sufficiency in all fields, whether agriculture, manufacturing or services. He also called for more concentration on the marketing of agricultural and manufactured goods if "we expect for these two sectors a great production boost," eventually insuring sufficient national production and large markets.

Senator Salem Ibn Najjad

In his speech to the Senate, Senator Salem Ibn Najjad praised King Hussein's efforts in building the "modern Jordan," and his continuous work towards achieving a united Arab stand during what he described as "difficult times."

Senator Ibn Najjad said that he supported the government's backing of the Armed Forces and the security departments, since they have proved extremely effective in fulfilling their roles.

He also praised King Hussein and his government for the support given to Palestinians living in the occupied territories, who he said, should be "saluted for their courageous steadfastness against the Israeli occupation authorities."

Senator Ibn Najjad also called upon the government to "concentrate its efforts on creating more agricultural projects in the south of Jordan."

Senator Barjas Al Hadid

Senator Barjas Al Hadid, in his speech, expressed thanks to King Hussein for his dedication to achieving Jordan's aspirations in development and safeguarding the country's security and stability. He also praised King Hussein's continuous endeavours to unite Arab ranks and achieve the aspired-for Arab solidarity, saying that it was the only means for countering the challenges facing the Arab Nation.

Senator Hadid thanked His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for his efforts in consolidating and strengthening the march towards economic and social development.

On the Jordanian national economy, Mr. Hadid said that indicators are positive and that the value of the Jordanian dinar is stable. He noted with satisfaction that there has been a growth in the gross national product (GNP), an increase in deposits and a decrease in the balance of trade deficit, and attributed these developments to the government's efforts to encourage investment in the Kingdom.

However, the senator referred to the unemployment problem, noting that it is no longer a structural problem, and, thus, is not restricted to university and community college graduates. "The unemployment problem has gone beyond these categories to reach all other sectors," he said. Mr. Hadid called for diligent effort towards improving this situation.

In addition Senator Hadid called on the government to increase its allocations for Armed Forces, even if such an increase entails postponing other projects. He paid tribute to the progress achieved by the Armed Forces in terms of training, equipment and the application of modern technology.

Mr. Hadid also called for supporting the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, whom he said, are facing the Zionist enemy with their chests and stones. He added that the uprising of the Palestinians, who are equipped with great will and determination, was a living symbol of the Arab people's rejection of attempts at containment and hegemony aimed at Judaizing the Arab land and evicting the Arab people and weakening their will and steadfastness.

On the Iran-Iraq war, Senator Hadid called on the Arab Nation to support Iraq in its just war, because the war threatens not only the security and stability of Iraq, but the security and stability of the whole Arab Nation, as

well. He said further that the brutal Iranian aggression is not but a part of a Zionist plan aimed at weakening and dividing the Arab Nation.

Mr. Hadid concluded his speech by thanking the government for its untiring efforts to prepare the budget.

Senator Akram Zu'aitar

In his speech to the Senate, Senator Akram Zu'aitar stated support for the government's efforts, be they financial or political, to assist the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He noted that the budget report called on all countries, including the United States, to desist from supporting Israelis financially, militarily and politically until it responds to calls for peace.

Mr. Zu'aitar praised King Hussein's concern over the events in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, pointing in particular to King Hussein's directives to the government to accord payments to the families of victims of the recent uprising.

Senator Zu'aitar said that His Majesty's recent visit to the Soviet Union, was, in his own opinion, a political conquest, which he hoped would yield fruitful results to the benefit of the entire Arab Nation, and in particular to the Palestinians.

Mr. Zu'aitar said that the River Jordan had never been and would never be a dividing line between the Arab peoples on the East Bank and on the West Bank. "The river will always remain a symbol of the unity of the peoples on both banks. The history of the Palestinian national movement bears witness to the fact that the Arabs on the East Bank have always supported the Palestinian cause and joined in its march," he said.

In addition, the senator called on the government to curb unnecessary expenditures and set an example for the people by expending moderately.

Senator Rashid Ureiqat

Senator Ureiqat praised in his speech the heroic struggle of the people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who are facing the Israeli army with their bare chests and stones and called for establishing an Arab fund for supporting the Palestinian people. He said that the Arab and Muslim nations were facing a fierce Zionist attack directed against the Islamic religion and values and the Arab Order, in an effort to curtail Arab-Muslim unity, which is feared by Zionists.

Had the Arab and Islamic World given its unique and strategic geographical location, its Islamic religion and the huge human resources and natural wealth, united, it would have posed a major threat to the whole world and would not have become a consumer market for the world's factories and industries," the senator said.

Israel continues summary trials

(Continued from page 1)

for stone-throwing, while some got 20 days for taking part in a demonstration.

No witnesses gave evidence and no family members were allowed to watch the proceedings in Gaza.

Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron was quoted as saying Tuesday that the army now has more troops in Gaza than it took to take from Egypt and occupy the refugee-packed zone 20 years ago. It also doubled the number of troops in the occupied West Bank, he said.

Palestinian lawyers from the West Bank announced later Tuesday they will join their Gaza Strip colleagues and boycott the trials as of Wednesday morning, Israel Radio reported.

The radio quoted an Arab attorney, Jawad Bulus, as saying the trials were held immediately after the prosecution presented its evidence.

In Washington, the State Department declined to comment on the complaints.

But State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters that the United States expected Israel to abide by international standards in the treatment of the prisoners.

European tourist visits to increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has concluded a number of agreements with European countries aimed at encouraging tourists to visit archaeological and touristic sites in the Kingdom, according to Ms. Hiyam Al Khatib, head of the tourism marketing department at the Tourism Authority. She said that these agreements were concluded during a visit to the United Kingdom by a Jordanian delegation, in which it took part in an international tourist exhibition.

Taking part in the exhibition held in the first week of December were more than 1,500 countries and tourist companies, Ms. Khatib noted.

She said that at the exhibition, Jordan highlighted its tourist potentials, such as the spas, like the Zarqa Ma'in Spa, which offer therapeutic benefits, and desert and archaeological sites, among other attractions for which the country is famous.

Agreement was reached with representatives of tourist authorities in the U.K., West Germany and other Western European countries attending the exhibition on ways to dispatch tourist groups to Jordan, Ms. Khatib said.

In addition, she said the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian, in cooperation with Jordanian tourist and travel agencies, presented its tourist programmes at the exhibition.

Tourist representatives from Jordan and Egypt met and agreed on joint plans for marketing in Western Europe their countries' attractions through package tours, according to Ms. Khatib. During the exhibition, Ms. Khatib met with officials in charge of tourism marketing in Britain to brief them on Jordan's tourism policies and facilities.

The Jordanian delegation to the exhibition grouped representatives of the Tourism Authority, Royal Jordanian, the Jordan Hotels Association and tourist agencies in Jordan.

Donations start coming in for special W. Bank fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — A popular committee formed to arrange the collection of contributions for the families of Palestinian martyrs who fell in the recent uprising against the Israeli authorities' repressive measures in the occupied West Bank has announced that it has already raised JD 8,000 for the humanitarian cause.

Sheikh Mohammad Shaqra, member of the committee which was formed last Friday, said that the JD 8,000 sum came in an initial contribution from a group of citizens.

He said that the committee has opened a special account for contributions with Islamic Bank.

Sheikh Shaqra appealed to all citizens to contribute generously to the families of the martyrs as an expression of support for and solidarity with their brothers and sisters living under Israeli rule.

The committee includes: Mr. Ra'ef Nijem, Lieutenant-General

Khaled Tarawneh, Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al Fayoumi, Mr. Mousa Shihadeh, Mr. Mohammad Yousef, Mr. Ali Tabbaa, Mr. Abdul Latif Mar'i, Sheikh Ahmad Minwer Al Hadid, Mr. Hassan Nouri and Sheikh Shaqra.

His Majesty King Hussein last week directed the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate monthly salaries to the Palestinian families whose children were killed by the Israeli authorities during the recent uprising.

The move was seen as another bid by Jordan to support the steadfastness of the Arab people living in the occupied territories.

Dakhqan returns after concluding land transport talks in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan returned here from Baghdad on Tuesday after heading Jordan's side to the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company's general assembly meeting held in the Iraqi capital.

In a statement upon his return, the minister said that the general assembly discussed the company's operational plan and budget for 1988 and decided to purchase an additional 150 trucks, to raise the total number of trucks owned by the company to 900. The cost of the additional trucks would come to JD 3 million, according to Mr. Dakhqan.

The minister said the general assembly decided that the company trucks should begin transporting cereals, in addition to oil and oil products, from Aqaba to Baghdad.

During his stay in Baghdad, Mr. Dakhqan said he met with his Iraqi counterpart, Mr. Mohammad Hamzeh Al Zubeidi, with whom he reached agreement on dispatching more Iraqi trucks to transport goods for import to Iraq from Aqaba, on facilitating the flow of Jordanian trucks through the common border points and on providing petrol stations to assist in this process.

Mr. Dakhqan said he also met during the visit with Dr. Abdul Tawwab Al Mulla, the Iraqi minister of heavy industry, and discussed the prospect of exporting Iraqi fertilisers to other countries through Aqaba.

Agreement was reached during the meeting on the exportation of 200,000 tonnes of Iraqi fertilisers through Aqaba in the near future as a first step.

It was also agreed that Jordan should allow a piece of land near the Aqaba port to serve as a storing ground for Iraqi fertilisers on their way for export via Aqaba, the minister pointed out.

Mr. Dakhqan also met in Baghdad with Mr. Issam Al Jalaibi, Iraqi minister of oil, with whom he agreed on increasing the quantities of Iraqi crude exports through Aqaba to reach 12,000 tonnes per day.

The minister said that Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's first deputy prime minister, has asked him to convey greetings to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Mr. Dakhqan and Mr. Ramadan, in their meeting during the visit, reviewed Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation which is currently being conducted through the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee.

RJ to add Miami to U.S. route

By a Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has been granted the right to add Miami to its U.S. route system by the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

This southeast gateway is an additional RJ destination to the U.S., complementing the existing stations in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The carrier will commence operation on May 3, 1988 with two weekly flights. A TriStar L1011

aircraft will be utilised on this route with an intermediate stop. Miami is believed to be of great importance to RJ Holy Land pilgrims; plus, winter vacationers are the prime target passengers for this route.

With this addition, RJ will have covered the most important geographical areas in the U.S. It is worth mentioning that RJ inaugurated its first-ever direct flight between Amman and New York in July 1977.

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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMER

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Arrows point to growing danger

THE United States and Israel are expected to develop jointly Israel's Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missiles (ATBMs) with the U.S. paying 80 per cent of the development costs and Israel 20 per cent. The "Arrows" would have a range below 300 miles and, therefore, would not be covered under the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty signed in Washington on Dec. 8. The ATBMs' capabilities, the American and Israeli say, could change the military balance in the Middle East and protect Western Europe against very short-range battlefield missiles.

Well, with the reports of Israel possessing the 1,450 kilometre-range Jericho II missiles capable of reaching distant Arab capitals and key Soviet naval bases on the Black Sea, the balance looks already heavily tilted in favour of the Zionist state. However, the Arrow ATBMs are seen as an effective reply to the alleged deployment of Soviet tactical ballistic missiles by Syria. But the ATBM concept seems to have a wider strategic dimension beyond the needs of the military environment in the Middle East. By declaring Israel a "major non-NATO ally" in January this year, the U.S. administration might have sought to confer upon it the role of active partner in pursuing military objectives in Europe.

The U.S. pressure on Israel in August to drop the multi-billion dollar Lavi fighter-bomber project was necessarily connected with the prospects of developing the ATBMs which, perhaps, would provide additional nuclear teeth to Israel in the overall global strategy of the U.S. But the crux of the problem is that the development of the ATBMs is part of Israel's participation in the U.S. strategic defence initiative (SDI). The Soviets object to the SDI because it goes against the letter and spirit of the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, signed between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1972. According to the Soviets, therefore, the Arrows legitimacy is circumspect. However, the ABM treaty has a weakness that would tempt anyone to broadly or narrowly interpret it the way one wants. The ABM treaty does not prohibit development of anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons and ATBM systems — defence against nuclear missiles that have less than continental range — both of which essentially use the technology required to destroy ballistic nuclear missiles. Though ASAT and ATBM are excluded from the ABM treaty, it prohibits interference with other nations' satellites. The fear is that the SDI programme could be conducted against satellites using systems that have lower performance capability than needed for an ABM system.

Be that as it may, Israel is not a signatory to the ABM treaty, nor has it signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty; so there seems to be nothing that would prevent it from developing technologically exotic systems, given the funds from America. U.S. largesse to Israel in this respect is a byword, and the U.S. is always confident that Israel will do on its behalf what it is not supposed to do according to the ABM treaty. Besides, the introduction of mass-produced Arrow ATBMs into Western Europe will also allay the concern of the NATO allies over balancing the Warsaw Pact countries' preponderance in conventional weapons in the wake of the INF treaty, designed to abolish the Pershing II and cruise missiles from Europe.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: GCC success is vital

THE SUCCESS of the Nov. 8-11 Amman Arab summit seemed to have paved the way for a successful meeting of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh. These leaders are meeting to discuss their position with regard to the Gulf conflict and Iran's persistence in continuing its aggression on Arab territory. When the Amman summit meeting opened last month the Iranians fired a missile on Baghdad, and when the present GCC summit opened they fired a missile on a Saudi oil tanker in a show of disregard to the Arab leaders and their decisions. The Iranians are trying to make it clear they totally reject any attempt to stop the war, and any moves towards reestablishing peace in the Gulf region. This is a clear sign to the world community that Iran continues to reject U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and refuses to implement it in any form. In the light of this stand we believe that the Riyadh summit is of paramount importance and the Arab leaders meeting in the Saudi capital ought to take practical steps to stop the war and to agree on measures to repel aggression on their countries and Iran's expansionist ambitions in the Gulf area. A successful summit in Riyadh will no doubt complement the work of the Amman summit and boost the Arab Nation's stand in the current difficult circumstances and in the light of the looming dangers. A successful Riyadh summit will no doubt help stem foreign designs of imposing hegemony on the Arab region and boost the Arab Nation's potential, enabling it to confront any challenges.

Al Dustour: Inaction encourages Israel

THE ISRAELIS seem to be determined to go ahead with applying more repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories in a bid to stifle the spirit of resistance among the Arab people. As the Arabs step up their activity against the occupation authorities, we see fiercer Israeli campaigns being launched against them in an attempt to stem all forms of resistance. The Israelis are now involved in imposing curfews on Arab towns and refugee camps and laying siege on others as the campaign of arrests and trials before military courts continue unabated. Collective punishment against the Arabs is now being practiced in the most flagrant manner against its residents of the Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip despite repeated protests from officials from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and with total disregard to human rights and international condemnation. This Israeli onslaught on the innocent civilians presents another evidence of the barbaric nature of Zionism and places the world community face to face with its responsibility. Another arbitrary measure being practiced against the Arab population under Israeli rule is the threat of deportation to the East Bank of hundreds of young men who had taken part in the recent anti-Israeli demonstrations. Israel is threatening to carry out this practice in order to try to end all forms of resistance to occupation while knowing that the Arab World cannot and will not do anything to stop such action. For this reason, we call for speedy assistance and diplomatic moves to be taken in support of the Arab population and to expose Israel's atrocities.

1987 — a year that ends on a hopeful note

By Philippe Naughton

Reuter

LONDON — A meeting between the two most powerful men in the world and the signing of the first pact to eliminate an entire class of nuclear arms sparked hopes that 1987 could come to mark a turning point in superpower relations.

The December summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave an upbeat climax to a year which saw famine again threaten the lives of millions of Africans and in which a stock market crash wiped out an estimated \$2,000 billion of paper wealth worldwide.

Reagan and Gorbachev said that in their three-day meeting they strengthened a relationship that would promote dialogue rather than confrontation between their traditionally hostile political systems.

For Reagan, the summit came as a diplomatic triumph after a nightmare of a year that included the Iran-contra scandal, loss of a Republican majority in the Senate from last January, the Wall Street crash, prostate surgery and his wife's breast cancer surgery.

The summit brought no spectacular breakthroughs but produced what it was scheduled to do — the signing of a superpower agreement to abolish medium-range nuclear missiles, and analysts said this was by itself an historic success.

On strategic arms, there was modest but steady progress towards the goal that NATO and the Warsaw Pact have already approved — a halving of superpower arsenals.

The two sides announced agreement on one key figure for missile warhead ceilings, and appeared to temporarily shelve their differences on the controversial U.S. "Star Wars" programme for anti-missile defences.

It remained unclear whether they could complete a strategic arms pact in time for a fourth summit in Moscow in the first half of next year.

Reagan's problems

Throughout the year Reagan faced problems of the sort that could confront any second-term president, but these were aggravated both by the continuing saga of the "Irangate" scandal and by a Democrat-controlled Congress.

Congress sharply criticised Reagan for his decision to offer protection to Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf and rejected two of his nominees for a place on the bench of the supreme court.

Fired White House aide Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North became a media star when he testified to a congressional committee conducting televised hearings into the scandal over the diversion of funds to Nicaragua contra rebels from the sale of arms to Iran.

"I'm here to tell you the truth, the good, the bad and the ugly. I'm here to tell it all," North told a spellbound America. His six days of televised testimony sent a wave of "Oliemania" across the United States.

The congressional report on the Iran-contra scandal released in November said Reagan must

take responsibility for the sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of some profits to the contra rebels even if he did not know what his aides had done.

"The ultimate responsibility for the events in the Iran-contra affair must rest with the president," it said.

Reagan's economic headaches began early in the new year, and got steadily worse. In January, the first-ever trillion dollar U.S. budget worried financial markets — already concerned that the United States had become the world's biggest debtor.

Investors were also unsettled because the near halving of the dollar's value since 1985 had not cut the massive U.S. trade deficit.

Finally, in October, they decided it was time to bail out. On "black Monday," Oct. 19, Wall Street stocks plunged 22.6 per cent. Other markets followed and by the end of the year the dollar had hit record lows against the mark, yen and Swiss franc.

The crash of '87 was a shock to the system that deeply worried economists and politicians.

Other global financial problems persisted. Nobody could decide what to do about the \$1,000 billion debt crisis.

Brazil, the Third World's biggest debtor, decided it was fed up with the old prescriptions of austerity to enable it to keep up its debt payments, and suspended payments to its bankers.

Based on uncertain prospects for timely repayment, bank accountants decided many old loans to the Third World were not worth as much as they had thought.

Some due-dates on debt were postponed again, and economists kept warning that unless a more permanent solution could be found, the debt crisis could still push the world into a recession.

But 1987 was not all economic doom and gloom. In the art world, prices went up and up. In November, Vincent van Gogh's "Irises" painted in a mental asylum just under a century ago, fetched \$53.9 million, becoming the most expensive painting ever sold at auction. Eight months earlier, his "sunflowers" had set a world record of \$24.75 million sterling (about \$40 million).

High note for Gorbachev

For Kremlin leader Gorbachev, 1987 seemed to be ending on a high note with his visit to Washington and the signing of the INF treaty.

At home, he had won approval from the Communist Party's policy-setting Central Committee for a major reshaping of economic management, a key element of his "perestroika" reconstruction programme, starting from January 1988.

During the year he also brought other reform-minded figures into the party's ruling politburo, clearly strengthening his own position at the top of the Soviet power structure.

And despite a continuing debate on what the extent of his "glasnost" policy of open discussion on public issues should be, the Soviet press became more outspoken on domestic problems and long-banned literary works

were published.

But close to the surface at the year-end there was nevertheless a sense of unease among both intellectuals, who had been a strong source of support for the Kremlin leader, and ordinary Soviet citizens.

Muscovites grumbled more openly that despite the promises of reform, there had been no noticeable improvement in food supplies.

Gorbachev's standing among the liberal intelligentsia and some workers had been weakened by the dismissal in November of Moscow party chief Boris Yeltsin, a radical reformer long regarded as one of his chief lieutenants.

Many educated Soviets were shocked by the humiliation of the official at a meeting addressed by the Kremlin chief during which Yeltsin confessed his errors after erstwhile aides had accused him of political and other offences.

And among more traditionally-minded Soviet citizens, there was clear displeasure over what they saw as the extensive concessions made by Gorbachev to the United States in his bid to achieve the INF treaty.

On his return from the summit, he appeared defensive in explaining the accord in a television address. And his armed forces chief-of-staff was subsequently brought in to assure the country that the military backed the treaty.

The Asian scene

There was political turmoil in many Asian countries in 1987 — nowhere more so than South Korea where street protests forced President Chun Doo Hwan's military-dominated government to agree in late June to reforms and the first free presidential election in 16 years.

The opposition appeared to be in a strong position to win the election on Dec. 16 but the two leading opposition candidates insisted on running and the split anti-government vote gave government candidate Roh Tae-Woo an easy victory.

In China, January 1987 saw Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang being forced to quit after nationwide pro-democracy student protests. However, the hardline veterans behind his dismissal were persuaded by senior leader Deng Xiaoping to relinquish power at the party's national congress in October.

Meanwhile national day celebrations on Oct. 1 were marred by riots in Lhasa over Chinese rule of Tibet.

Security forces opened fire on a crowd attacking a police station. The official death toll was put at six but some Tibetans said as many as 19 people died.

Sri Lanka tried to solve its four-year-old separatist Tamil insurgency, which has cost more than 8,000 lives, by agreeing to allow thousands of Indian troops on its territory.

The agreement, signed in Colombo in July by Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has been opposed by hardline Sinhalese, as well as the powerful Tamil Tiger rebels,

always expressed toward other Arab states.

The summit approved a joint security strategy designed to counter threats from internal subversion and a spillover of the war. Officials said it set broad outlines for the exchange of intelligence, training of security forces and coordination of command structures and communications systems.

The summit pledged material and moral support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories this month and urged a solution to civil strife in Lebanon.

The leaders hailed the Palestinian demonstrations as "heroic resistance and firm steadfastness."

They said they would "extend all support within their means" to the Palestinians.

They also said the "new situation makes it imperative to hasten the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations," with the Palestine Liberation Organisation taking part "on an equal footing" with all other involved parties.

The leaders re-elected GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bishara for a one-year term and agreed to hold their 1988 summit in Bahrain.

In the economic sphere, they expanded the list of professions which GCC citizens are free to

practice throughout the six states.

Formed in 1981, the GCC has moved toward a common market by abolishing customs tariffs on imports.

The leaders also instructed their foreign ministers to begin negotiations with the European Community on the first phase of a cooperation agreement.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Monday the United States remains committed to moving the Middle East peace process "forward." "Our views on the peace process are clearly and well known," Oakley told reporters.

The State Department spokesman had no specific comments to a question concerning a reported statement by King Fahd urging Iran to join Arabs in trying to liberate Jerusalem from Israeli occupation.

King Fahd accused Iran on Monday of seeking to impose alien ideologies on fellow Muslim nations in the Arab World to the detriment of the Arab struggle against Israel. A news story the king said Iran was "directing arrows at our hearts instead of helping us to liberate Jerusalem and the Arab Islamic territories in Palestine."

Pressed for a comment on King Fahd's words, as quoted in news accounts, Oakley said: "I'm not commenting on his comments."

The Middle East

In the Middle East, the Gulf war dragged on into an eighth year with Iran and Iraq apparently deadlocked, both on the battlefield and over political moves to end the conflict.

Diplomats in both capitals estimate Iran has around a quarter of a million men positioned close to the southern war-front, threatening an imminent attack on Iraq's second city Basra.

Iraqi military spokesmen say Basra's defensive shield, with greatly superior air power, is more than enough to repulse any attack. A big Iranian thrust towards Basra was thrown back last winter.

At the United Nations, Iraq has accepted a Security Council demand for a ceasefire but Iran will not consider doing so unless Iraq is first named as the aggressor state.

In the Gulf itself, Iraqi and Iranian raids on shipping reached a peak this year — marked by the entry of U.S. naval forces to the Gulf — with a confirmed total of at least 130 ships hit by missiles and mines. At least 70 merchant seamen have died in the attacks.

In late July, more than 400 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims, were killed in fights during an Iranian demonstration near Islam's holiest shrine in Mecca.

Palestinian deaths during nearly two weeks of anti-Israeli protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza in December have been condemned both by the Jewish state's traditional foes and its friends. The protests spread to Arab towns inside Israel.

Central America

In Central America, pessimism has given way to the euphoria generated by a regional peace plan signed in Guatemala on Aug. 7. The plan won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for its principal author, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

But the plan failed to bring about ceasefires in the three civil wars which have killed an estimated 200,000 people in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Ceasefire talks between left-wing guerrillas and the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala foundered over the antagonists' unwillingness to budge from long-standing positions.

There were on-again, off-again

Mishaps and disasters

There were several bad air crashes in 1987. Crashes in Detroit and Warsaw each killed over 150 people. The last weekend of November was the most gruesome. A South African Boeing 707 crashed into the Indian Ocean near the Island of Mauritius killing 160.

Next day, a Korean Airlines 707 with 115 people on board disappeared over Burma. South Korea said a mid-air explosion destroyed the plane.

On Dec. 7 a Pacific Southwest Airlines plane crashed in California, killing all 43 people on board. Investigators who found a gun in the wreckage suspected a murder-suicide plot by one of the passengers.

In February, mudslides caused by an earthquake killed 1,000 near Quito in Ecuador.

A month later, 188 people died when a British ferry, the Herald of Free Enterprise, capsized off the Belgian port of Zeebrugge.

In late December, a Manila-bound ferry with at least 1,500 passengers aboard sank off the central Philippines after a collision with another ship.

Some of the world's great musicians died during the year.

In June, Andres Segovia, generally regarded as the world's greatest classical guitarist, passed away in Madrid, aged 94. He took the classical guitar from the gypsy haunts of his native Andalusia and almost alone elevated it to its honoured place on the concert stage.

British cellist Jacqueline du Pre died in October, 14 years after the crippling disease multiple sclerosis forced her to abandon her concert career at the peak of international success.

In December Jascha Heifetz, the Russian-born virtuoso violinist, died in Los Angeles at the age of 86.

Hollywood also lost some of its legends.

— Fred Astaire, the epitome of elegance who danced his way through 31 musical hits, in June, aged 88.

— Comedian Danny Kaye, superb mimic and star of stage, screen, television and cabaret for more than 40 years, in March aged 74.

— Liberace, who put sparkle into the classics and charmed audiences throughout the world with his dazzling smile, rippling keyboard style and outlandish wardrobe, in Los Angeles in February aged 67.

LETTERS

Your licence please; never mind the stop sign

To the Editor:

I AM sure there has been no dearth of articles written about the traffic situation in this country, and I am sure that my letter will have about as much weight as the previous ones — negligible.

While I applaud whoever has been responsible for building roads, getting stoplights up, etc., the maddening contradictions that we all see on the roads every day all but cancel out my appreciation for the positive things that have been done. One recent tragedy has prompted me to write this letter, which has been simmering in my insides for a long time anyway. I refer to the accident at the Rabia intersection several weeks ago in which a school bus was creamed and flipped over by a child speeding through the stop sign. A student died.

This, of course, was going to happen sooner or later, as none of the authorities seems to know what a stop sign is, much less enforce it. If the authorities don't respect them, why should anyone else? Have you ever seen a policeman stop anyone around here for running a stop sign? No. Rather than position themselves at some of these intersections or patrolling some of the schools and neighbourhoods where spoiled children are roaring around in their fathers' Mercedes, they much prefer to play with their radar equipment at insignificant places on the freeways, or the even more leisurely activity of checking licenses — three or four policemen to a car.

Going back and forth to Zarqa every day, (by the way, why go on the freeway where there is an 80 km speed limit, when you can go the old way through Schneller Camp and Ruseifa — densely populated — but no speed limit? Go 120 and no one will stop you). I know that, with the exception of the radar, the law of the jungle prevails. Buses, army vehicles and cars regularly plough through the dirt divider in the middle of the freeway to make a U-turn. Apparently that is OK, even though the abundance of vicious wrecks and overturned vehicles suggest that maybe making U-turns in the freeway isn't a good idea. If you aren't bashed in the left lane, look out for the right lane, where services and buses feel quite free to stop in the middle of the lane. The light poles on the freeway come crashing down regularly and the authorities can't put them up fast enough.

There are hundreds of contradictions, and the basic problem, I suspect, is a lack of discernment on the part of the authorities of what is really happening out there in the "war" zone. This, coupled with a lackadaisical attitude towards what is important, breeds contempt in the drivers for the laws of the road. Some time ago we all braced ourselves for the crackdown on seatbelts. The crackdown never happened, and I suspect that seatbelts nowadays are treated with about the same regard as stop signs — why bother?

Well, maybe some of the authorities will start "bothering" with substantive things rather than cosmetics when their own lives are touched by some punk blasting through a stopsign.

Rob Robertson,
Post Box: 4105,
Amman

Rifai, in reply to Senate Financial Committee, outlines measures aimed at achieving national objectives

Following is the text of a speech by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) during Tuesday's session of the Senate during which the Senate unanimously approved the 1988 budget.

Mr. Speaker,
Honourable senators,
I am pleased to start my speech by voicing the government's deep appreciation and gratitude to the House speaker and the members of the House's Financial Committee and its rapporteur Dr. Khalil Al Salem for their report on the 1988 fiscal budget. I also express appreciation for the ideas and proposals contained in that report which reflects the committee's vast experience in various aspects of political, pan-Arab and economic affairs.

This report contains full comprehensive analysis of the domestic situation and the regional and international circumstances developing around us and also includes an appraisal of the Jordanian government's achievements on the domestic and external fronts.

The process of development has been long and hard but the accomplishments were rewarding and on the level of genuine efforts and diligent work. However, Jordan has a long way to go to fulfil its major aspirations and we are going ahead, a united Jordanian family rallying behind the Royal Hashemite standard following in the directives of our leader and abiding by his guidance and wisdom and depending on the determination and the resolve of the citizens of this country and their struggle to build a strong nation.

The hands which build up this country and exploit its soil join forces with those hands which are entrusted with the task of protecting the Kingdom's independence and safeguarding its achievements and bolstering the security and tranquility for the Jordanian people. This integration between the civil and military institutions has always served as a basis for building up a strong nation and will remain the basis for progress and development.

The process of building up our

domestic front has never obstructed our efforts on the Arab and international fronts. Jordan which inherited a deep rooted and nationalist oriented mission believes in inter-action and integration with sister Arab states and also believes in openness to the world and has faith in cooperation and dialogue with all friendly nations. As a result of this strategy we have gained genuine credibility and attained a high standard among world nations.

King Hussein's continued endeavours in rallying Arab ranks and unifying Arab countries in the face of dangers threatening the Arab Nation's existence and identity have been crowned by the Amman Arab summit that achieved consensus and agreement among Arab countries and won constructive and positive response by the leaders of the Arab Nation.

The Arab Nation was unanimous in its decision on defending the Arab Order and preserving security and peace for the Arab Nation. The Arab leaders have thus led their nation into a new era which is bound to strengthen hopes for the fulfilment of the nation's aspirations and aspired goals.

As the Arab Nation's hopes are corroborated with the outcome of the Amman summit we feel that the coming stage requires further meetings for unified action. Following 20 years of occupation and repression the Arab people of Palestine are still steadfast in their land defying the Israeli occupation authorities through continued national uprising in defence of their dignity and the rights of their people. His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly warned the international community of the dangers inherent in Israel's continued obduracy and stubbornness and its rejection of all bids for a permanent peace. The King also warned against Israel's terrorist practices and all forms of

repression against our brethren in the occupied lands. The explosive situation in the occupied Arab territories, now more than any time in the past, calls for convening an international peace conference to be attended by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, to bring about a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, to secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and pave the way for a comprehensive, durable and just peace in the region.

We send greetings to the steadfast people of the occupied lands and pledge to remain staunch supporters for their struggle assisting them in any possible way.

On the other hand, Iraq has been defending Arab soil for more than seven years and protecting the eastern wing of the Arab World with honour and determination to defend Arab identity. Jordan for its part and since the first instance of the war, has stood by Iraq in its legitimate self defence and has supported the Iraqi people in their quest to end the conflict by peaceful means. Jordan calls for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 in order of its provisions and demands that all other measures be taken in this matter to stop the war and prevent it from spilling over to the rest of the Arab Gulf region and from endangering world peace and security at large.

Mr. Speaker,
Members of the Upper House of Parliament.

The Jordanian government agrees with the Financial Committee's view about analysis of the complicated international and regional situation and its adverse impact on our domestic situation and appreciates the committee's statement about achievements accomplished in this country despite these circumstances.

The government is keen on protecting our achievements and will continue to employ all available resources for bolstering national economy and increasing

accomplishments and distributing their benefits to all public sectors and throughout the Kingdom's provinces.

The 1988 budget which reflects the government's plans for the coming year agrees in its dimensions and its objectives with long range strategies and policies, and takes into consideration the various means that allow this country to adapt to changes and new developments.

In this context the government's plans and programmes are coordinated and are in conformity with the national principles. As to the remarks made by members of the Financial Committee, I would like to sum up my comments on them in accordance with their sequence:

a) The government took note of the recommendations in the committee's report about modernising the budget law with a view to coping with the fast development going on in the Kingdom and to be in harmony with the financial situation and developing financial sciences. The government has laid down the main basis of a new budget law and it will present it to Parliament as soon as a final version has been drawn up.

b) The government is keen on reducing expenditure and controlling public expenses. It maintains constant coordination and contact with all official departments in the country to ensure this policy is carried through in matters connected with current or capital expenditure and to see that all funds are spent on matters that contribute to bolstering national economy.

At present the Royal Commission on overhauling the civil service system is currently involved in revising the financial system and the state policy on procurement with the purpose of defining new principles and laying new foundations for controlling the process of purchases. At the same time the government has decided to carry out a comprehensive survey of its assets, machinery and equipment, with the purpose of ensuring sufficient equipment

for all departments and institutions. Although the 1988 budget provides for purchases, no step will be taken in this respect before a survey is conducted to determine the exact needs.

c) The government agrees with remarks about striking a balance between revenues and expenses and its impact on the monetary and economic affairs in the country. The government, while working out its evaluation of local revenues, aims first to collect these revenues by all means at its disposal taking into consideration the economic potential resulting from public expenditure and resulting from policies aimed at stimulating the national economy in all its aspects. Local revenues are used to cover current expenses; and we also take care to cover capital expenditure within a general and comprehensive developmental strategy.

The government seeks to employ its revenues in laying the infrastructure and creating appropriate climates for investments with the purpose of enhancing the national economy's productive capacity so as to meet the local needs of commodities and services. This policy also aims at enhancing our power to market national products in foreign countries, a process which is bound to corroborate Jordan's balance of trade and its balance of payments and is also bound to create more jobs for people of different specialisations and skills and strengthen our power to attract Arab and foreign capital to be invested in the Kingdom.

d) All laws should be flexible and capable of change and adaptation to varying circumstances and developments. The legislative and executive authorities have been cooperating in modernising numerous legislations and laws, a process which has had its beneficial impact on the development of various sectors.

The government involves the private sector in laying down laws connected with economic and social activities in the Kingdom. In order to work out a new companies law, the government has set up a technical committee grouping representatives of the public and private sectors, to prepare a draft law as was mentioned in the financial committee's report. The committee has worked out this draft law which has been sent to the Legislation Bureau at the prime minister's office for the finishing touches.

The bureau has completed work on 220 items out of a total of 360 items of the new draft law and it is hoped that the completed version will be referred to parliament in its current session.

e) The government continues its efforts to support and develop the agricultural sector. The government has organised the process of production and marketing of products and applied the agricultural patterns system offered farmers prices to encourage production and to help them achieve rewarding results. These policies are aimed at reducing imports of products that can be produced locally. The government in addition has been directing the operations of the Jordan Agriculture Marketing and Processing Company to open new markets for our

products and has been increasing Jordan's agricultural exports to Arab states through bilateral trade agreements, and is now involved in studies for setting up food processing plants. In fact tenders have been awarded to companies to set up such plants.

The government's efforts are concentrated on unifying credit operations by confining this process to one department that can deal directly with farmers. The government continues to handle all problems encountered in the agricultural sector and helping the agricultural sector to contribute more to the margin of domestic production.

f) The government has adopted a policy of encouraging individual initiatives and the policy of integration between the public and private sector in the country's economic and investment affairs, because the government is keen on preventing harmful competition between the two sectors in the field of investment.

In addition the government participates in all projects in construction, tourism, and trade specially in the absence of private sector contributions in these fields or when the higher national interest requires such participation.

The government of course aims at transferring these investments and this participation to the private sector and is ready to sell its shares to this sector so that government attention could be focused on promoting services for



Cabinet members attend Tuesday's session of the Upper House of Parliament (Petra photo)

the citizens and the country as a whole. In this connection, we call the private sector to take more initiatives in promoting investment, production and marketing of national products within convenient climates.

In order to maintain our credibility in our dealings with Arab and friendly nations of the world we ought to honour our financial commitments on schedule. We have worked out our military and economic programmes in a manner to enhance the Kingdom's steadfastness in the face of Zionist danger along the longest confrontation line by depending on Arab financial assistance as provided for in the Arab summit conferences. But due to a drop in the Arab aid and in the light of the government's duty to honour its commitments on schedule, the annual deficit has increased and so did the cumulative deficit with the result that the country is now facing heavier internal and external debts.

The government is however, keen on maintaining services on loans within safe and internationally acceptable limits. The government is keen on utilising loans in the productive sectors which are capable of increasing our hard currency reserves.

The government is pleased to share with the committee its gratitude to Saudi Arabia and other Arab states which continue to provide assistance to us and we hope that other Arab countries which had not been able to honour their commitments to pay their arrears. The government is keen on employing all amounts coming in from Arab countries to pay back loans and so reduce the public debt.

I would like once again to extend thanks and appreciation to all House members and the Financial Committee and all those who spoke during this session, for their useful views and proposals, which reflect the sense of responsibility and the sense of duty, and their belief in cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of government for achieving the best results in implementation of the King's directives.

Senate unanimously endorses 1988 budget

(Continued from page 1)

pared towards strengthening the country's economic and military capabilities.

He also renewed previous government pledges to maintain the servicing of the Kingdom's public debt within the safe and internationally accepted limits. At the same time, he said, "we are working to optimise loans and channel them into production sectors that increase foreign currency reserves."

However, in light of the successful outcome of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit meeting in Amman, officials and parliamentarians are certain that Arab countries would meet the bulk of their overdues in financial aid made to Jordan. Hence, the 1988 budget contains an expected 8 per cent increase from the 1987 Arab aid of JD 120 million. This confidence was reflected in the 1988 budget and was further

backed by a strong call from the Senate Financial Committee on all Arab leaders to fulfil their pledges. According to the committee, the total outstanding Arab aid is \$5 billion.

Both Mr. Rifai and the committee expressed deep appreciation for Saudi Arabia's consistency in meeting its commitments to Jordan.

Mr. Rifai said the government agreed with the statement made by the committee and similar remarks by senators on the need to "tighten the links between the volume of revenues and expenditures and their economic and financial effects." He stressed that the government, when presenting estimates for local revenues, was trying to be as much realistic as possible.

The committee and Senator Akram Zuaitar mildly criticised the government for what they viewed as a "luxurious" style

adopted by government departments which own expensive cars, machines and equipment and called for a view of such "current expenditures and to rationalise capital expenditures on consumed items."

Mr. Rifai said a special study was being prepared on equipment and vehicles owned by government departments and the government would act in accordance with its outcome and avoid extra spending.

He also said the Royal Commission for Administrative Development was studying the possibilities of a united system for the department's purchases and supplies to control the process of buying public supplies.

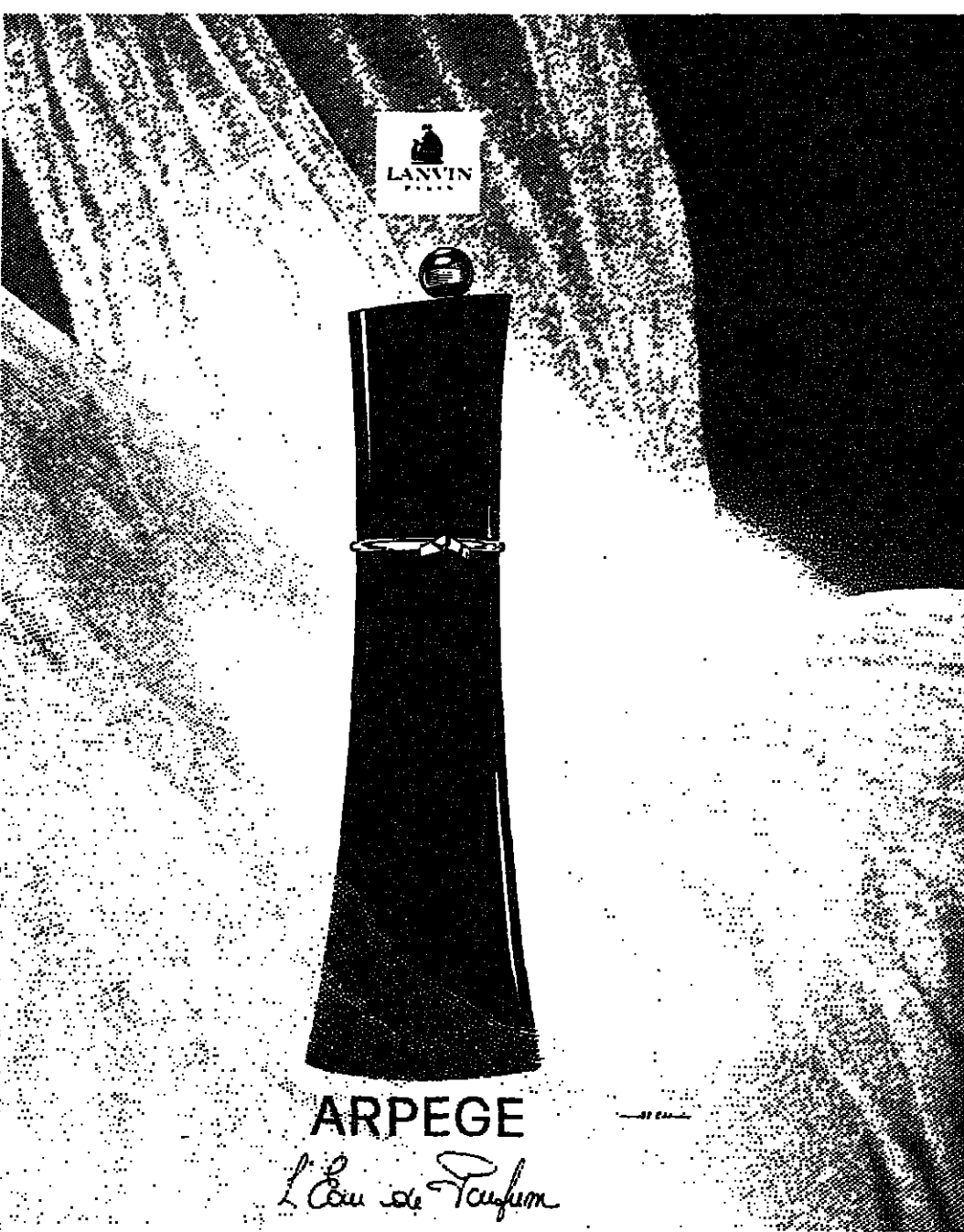
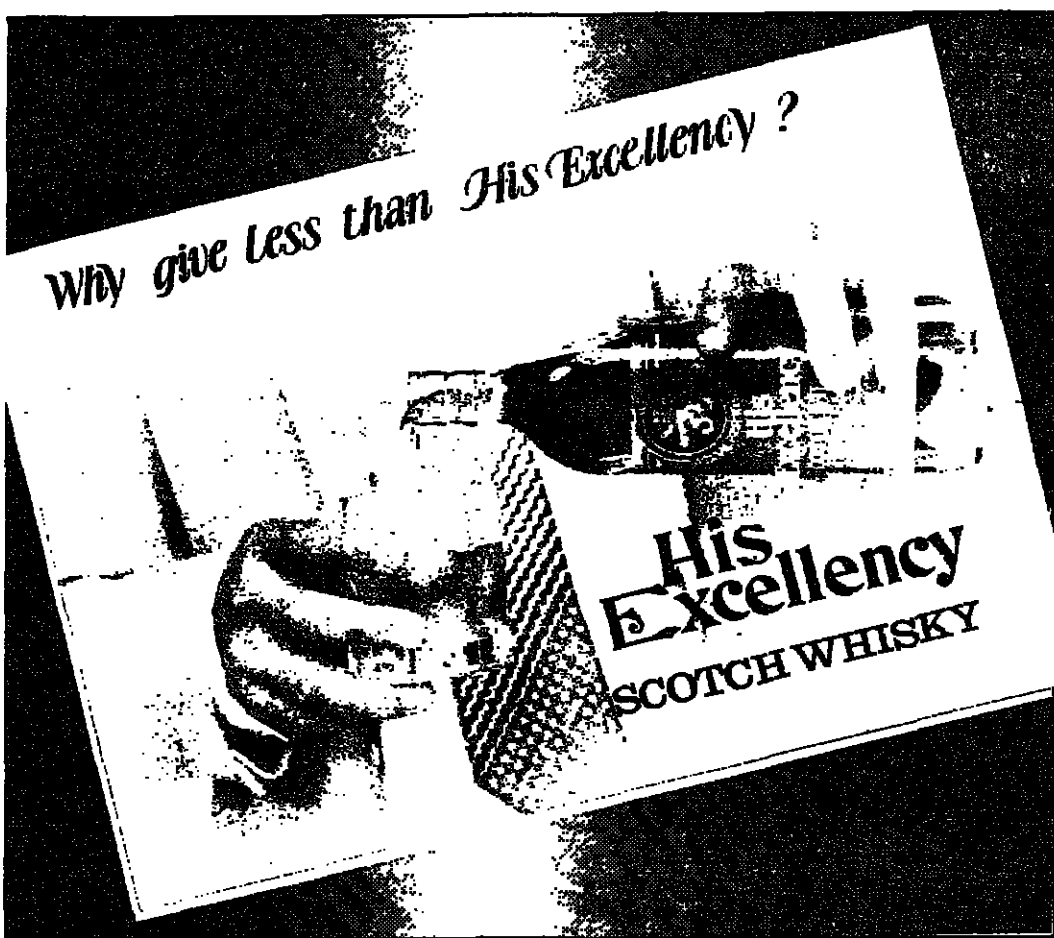
Sensors Hasem Nuseibeh, Mohammad Odeh Al Qaraan, Salem Ibn Najadrasid Uraikar, Hassan Al Kayyed, and Ahmad Al Tarawneh called on the government to further support the agricultural sector, find more

markets and increase subsidies and projects and designate a single organisation responsible for agricultural credit facilities.

Mr. Rifai said the government was continuing efforts in this direction. The adoption of a fixed cropping pattern to solve marketing glut, putting encouraging prices for certain produce and opening up new marketing outlets through the task of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan, were among the government's measures, he said.

Senators and Mr. Rifai agreed that the 1988 budget was a "draft for hope" and that it was a reflection of keenness to maintain and further improve Jordan's socio-economic and financial achievements.

"The budget is not to be measured by numbers, but through the policies and principles it envisages," said Senator Kayyed.



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Sovereign sails to victory

HOBART (R) — Australian Maxi Sovereign took the honours in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race on Tuesday after clocking the third fastest time in the 42-year history of the event.

The 83-footer, which travelled the 630 miles from Sydney Harbour in two days 21 hours and 58 minutes, was chased home by Gazebo, skippered by America's Cup veteran Syd Fischer, which made up much ground in the closing hours of the race.

Gazebo, formerly Ragamuffin, finished 36 minutes behind the aluminium-hulled Sovereign. A

third Australian maxi, Apollo, was the only other yacht to have crossed the finish line in mid-afternoon, 21 minutes behind Gazebo.

Helsal Two, an Australian pocket maxi, was expected to finish next, being 9.5 miles from the Derwent River.

Conditions improved for the 150-yacht fleet on Tuesday after the southerly gales that hit the fleet in the Bass Strait on Monday. Light north-easterly winds were easing the yachts down the east coast of Tasmania towards

Hobart.

Beyond Thunderdome, a one-tonner from Sydney still 103 miles from the finish, is currently leading the race on corrected time.

Sagacious V, another Australian boat, is second with New Zealand's Mad Max third. In the Southern Cross Cup, for which 33 of the fleet are competing, Australia lead New Zealand with New South Wales in third place and Hong Kong fourth.

The race record of two days, 14 hours and 36 minutes was set by American yacht Kialoa in 1975.

Patriots rout Dolphins in NFL season final

MIAMI (AP) — Steve Grogan threw for 238 yards and two touchdowns as the New England Patriots, eliminated from the National Football League (NFL) playoffs a day earlier, beat the Miami Dolphins 24-10 Monday night in the final game of the 1987 regular season.

Grogan, playing with a broken bone in his left hand, connected with Irving Fryar for a 3-yard score after a Miami fumble and hit Stephen Starring with a 34-yard pass to cap a 79-yard drive.

Grogan, concluding his 13th year in the NFL, completed 21 of 32 passes.

Both New England and Miami finished 8-7, one game behind AFC East champion Indianapolis. The victory was the Patriots' third straight this season and fifth in a row against the Dolphins.

Tony Collins ran five yards for the final New England touchdown, and Tony Franklin kicked a 31-yard field goal to give the Patriots a 24-3 halftime lead.

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PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AL-WEHDAD DAM DIVERSION TUNNEL

The Jordan Valley Authority invites interested Jordanian contractors either individuals or in joint venture with Arab or international contractors to apply for prequalification to tender for the construction of a diversion tunnel for Al-Wehdad Dam project on the Yarmouk River in the north of Jordan which constitutes a major component of Al-Wehdad Dam project.

The work will include the construction of concrete-lined horse shoe shaped diversion tunnel with a diameter of (7.75) metres and a length of about (800) metres and intake and outlet portal structures.

Application for prequalification will be considered only from Jordanian contractors, either individuals or in joint venture with Arab or international contractors which are suitably qualified for this type of work. The Jordanian contractors should be registered at the Ministry of Public Works with Grade "A" qualifications in roads, water resources, excavation and civil works.

The prequalification document submitted shall include details of experience and past performance on similar projects. The capability of the contractors with respect to personnel, equipment, and plant and the contractors financial position.

Application for the prequalification will be issued against a non-refundable payment of JD 40 and will be available from Jan. 2, 1988 and should be submitted in two copies not later than Jan. 25, 1988.

The present schedule is to make the tender documents available to prequalified contractors on February 15, 1988, to arrange for a site visit by tenderers on March 1, 1988, to open the tenders, April 11, 1988 and to award the contract May 2, 1988. Construction will require about one year.

All correspondence shall be addressed to:

H.E. Dr. M. Bani Hani
Acting President
Jordan Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2769
Telephone: 644525/
641473
Telex: 21053 JVA JO
21692 JVC JO

Dr. Eng. M. Bani Hani
Acting President

Four-wheel drivers cruise through Jordanian desert today

The desert challenge will feature seven Jordanian entries, four Kuwaitis, Qatari and Bahraini

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The desert sands of Jordan wake up again to the roar of powerful drive rally vehicles today as they turn hosts to the third and final round of the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

It is by a sheer coincidence that Jordan is hosting the event, which was originally scheduled to be held in Qatar in November but was shifted to the Kingdom after organisational problems developed in the Gulf emirate.

Seven Jordanian entries appear in the final list of participants for today's Jordan Desert Challenge, which brings together four drivers from Kuwait and one each from Qatar and Bahrain. Leading the Jordanian entrants for the challenge are veterans Abdul Ilah Said Malhas (co-driver Keith Ferry) whose powerful 3,532-cc Land Rover has been a regular chugging feature for almost every rally in Jordan with a slow-and-steady finishes-the-race record, and former national champion Hani Bisharat (co-driver Fawzi Sawalha) in a 1,987-cc Toyota Hilux and Sharif Jamil Nasser (co-driver Oussama Marar) behind the wheel of a massive 1,441-cc GMC Pickup.

Ahmad Al Helal and co-driver Fahed Al Rashid of Kuwait, driving a Mitsubishi Pajero Turbo, is leading the overall standing with 36 points for the three-round 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge. They won the first round held in Kuwait in October and were placed third in the Dec. 18 Bahrain event.

Trailing close behind is the first husband-and-wife team from the Gulf, Tariq and Khulud Al Alayan of Kuwait, with 31 points. However, the real battle for the championship is expected to be between Helal and Qatar's Abbas Al Mosawi and co-driver Mubarak Al Hajri since the Jordanian desert and the distance of the special stages tend to favour large



AHMAD AL HELAL and Fahed Al Rashid of Kuwait in their Mitsubishi Pajero Turbo are the leading contenders to the 1987 Marlboro Desert

Challenge, the final round of which is held today in Jordan

powerful vehicles such as the Kuwaitis' 3640-cc Mitsubishi and the Qataris' 3532-cc Range Rover rather than the Alayans' 1998-cc Daihatsu Rocky. Mosawi has chalked up 22 points in the Kuwaiti and Bahraini events.

However, rally experts expect the husband-and-wife team to put up a real battle for the \$10,000 first prize and say they won't be surprised the least if the couple do win the Jordan event and thus bag the top position. But Malhas and Bisharat, who have an excellent record in rallying with two-wheel vehicles, are seen as a strong challenge to the Alayans. Ironically, a Malhas or a Bisharat victory will not earn either of the Jordanian drivers the trophy since neither of them have taken part in the two earlier rounds to acquire any points.

Today's event, which kicks off from Alia Gateway Hotel at 9 a.m., involves a total distance of 312.82 kilometres of which 192.3 kilometres are in three special

stages repeated twice and spread in the deserts between Queen Alia International Airport and Dhiban, through Mudeisat, Swaqa and Daba.

The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) deserves special praise for its "excellent professional" organisation of the rally in record time, according to Nigel Heneghan, a joint spokesman for Marlboro, the umbrella sponsor of the overall challenge, and British Petroleum which sponsored the individual events in Kuwait and Bahrain as well as today's final round.

The praise is well-deserved since the RACJ, under the expert hands of its General Manager Derek Ledger, indeed enjoys a high reputation for organising excellent rallying events in Jordan and this reputation is one of the factors that has projected the Kingdom as a strong candidate for inclusion in the world championship series designated by FISA, the international authority

over 30 regular rally cars of which about 10 are high-powered, purpose-built machines from Europe and Japan.

Apart from Malhas, Bisharat and Jamil Nasser, the other Jordanian entrants are Marouf Abu Samra and Tareq Bukhari in a 1998-cc Daihatsu Rocky, Imad Abu Eiseh and Ibrahim Abu Eiseh in a Nissan Pickup, Edward Kiriakos and Walid Kiriakos in a 3576-cc Toyota Land Cruiser and Ibrahim Salman and Ghassan Shami in a 993-cc Suzuki SJ 10.

The six non-Jordanian entrants include Kuwait's Eid Al Falah (29 points) and Sadeq Ashkanani and Tareq Al Wazzan (20 points) and Khalid Khalifa in Range Rovers identical to the Alayans. Heneghan said several other well-known drivers from the Gulf, including Michel Saleh of Kuwait and some of the Saudi veterans, had dropped out at the last minute from taking part in the Jordan event. He said eight of the 18 entrants in the Kuwait event made it to the finishing point while nine of the 12 vehicles finished the race in Bahrain.

The rainy weather and the heavy nature of the Jordanian desert sand — which is notorious for extracting a high toll on light vehicles — are expected to draw the best out of the four-wheel drive machines today. But then, four-wheel vehicles are expected to withstand heavy strains and prove their might — that is one of the main commercial aims of the whole exercise.

Powerful vehicles in Group D — engine capacity over 3,500-cc — will enjoy an edge over the rest of the group since one of the special stages stretches over 72 kilometres through the desert and power and endurance are the key to sustain speed and control over such a stretch, according to rally experts in Jordan.

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Water Authority of Jordan Invitation for Rebid (1FB) Supply of Water Meters

Date: 28/12/87
Loan No.: 2694 JO
IFB No.: 08/87/WM

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announces an invitation for rebidding for the purchase of water meters. A loan has been received from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the water and sewerage project, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of these water meters.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 75,000 water meters, 1/2" size, with a nominal capacity of 1.5m 3 per hour.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the president of the Water Authority, Shmeisani - Opposite Marriott Hotel, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone: 680100; Telex: 22439 W.A.J. JO.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of nonrefundable fee of JD 200.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of JD 6,000 and must be delivered to the above office no later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time, on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1988.

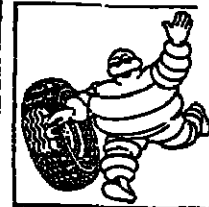
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MF establishes new fund to assist poorest countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced Tuesday it is setting up a special \$8.4 billion fund to help its poorest member nations meet their financial obligations.

The new fund, proposed last year by IMF Director Michel Camdessus and endorsed in June at the seven-nation economic summit in Venice, brings the amount of aid available for these hard-pressed nations to \$11.4 billion.

Some 62 countries, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, are eligible for the easy-term loans.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8645/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3045/55	Canadian dollar
	1.5900/10	Deutsche marks
	1.7890/906	Dutch guilders
	33.3045/60	Swiss francs
	33.3045/60	Belgian francs
	5.3380/3930	French francs
	1173/1175	Italian lire
	123.05/20	Japanese yen
	5.8300/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2600/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.1300/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	489.90/490.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices stood sharply lower in late London trading in response to the continued weakness of the U.S. dollar, with sentiment further undermined by another downturn on the U.S. stock market this afternoon, dealers said.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 63.7 at 727.4 on a reported volume of a fairly modest 233 million shares traded by 1500 GMT.

Dealers said the market believes the weakness of the dollar will end equity prices around the world lower for the rest of the week. A lack of fresh bid news also helped to sap interest, they added.

Dealers returned from the Christmas holiday in bearish mood after the first downward slide in the dollar, Wall Street's sharp sell-off overnight and Tokyo's collapse on Saturday.

They said these combined factors prompted some investors to take profits in the wake of the three-week rally which saw the TSE 100 within nine points of 1,800 at the close last Thursday. The FTSE 100 was last at 1,800 just after the October slump.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As he year draws to a close you'll have an opportunity to look back at past mistakes and see clearly where you went wrong. With this new insight, you can make a plan which will avoid many new opportunities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You are some interesting ideas about how to add to your present income. If you must work out the problems connected with them first.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): An idea that someone gives you may at first seem worthless, but if you look at it closely you'll change your mind. Get out and socialize.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): And a way to deal with a difficult worker that will make you more efficient in your own job. Buy something thoughtful for your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Get in touch with an associate early today and arrange recreation. Bring your mate along, and you'll benefit greatly.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21): If you invite any guests into your home today, make sure they are trustworthy. Get practical matters arranged with your kin, despite delays.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Don't write or say anything when communicating with others which could later be used against you. Be sure to drive with the utmost care.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Get advice from an expert before dealing with any financial or tax matters. Be sure you maintain your poise in any conversations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you want to get a very practical person to agree with your ideas, be sure you have all the correct facts and figures before you begin.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you agree to do some work for anyone, be sure you are both agreed on the compensation to be received. Work on improving your property.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Plan some amusements for the days ahead, but don't neglect other promises you have made. Try to be more understanding of your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): If you invite any guests into your home, don't discuss financial matters or trouble could ensue. Take the time to arrange your schedule.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): A good friend can show you how to get the assistance you need, and may let you in on a bargain. Show your gratitude to this person.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1. Aid in crime

2. Scaled plant

3. Fictional sleuth

4. Jacob's wife

5. Eagle's nest

6. Lay concealing

7. Nervous intermediate

8. In law

9. Humberate

10. Harsh questioning

11. Receptions: staff

12. Quizzes

13. Crocheted blanket

14. Pounded

15. Unusual

16. Soccer great

17. Mouths

18. Emulated

19. Perry Mason

20. Old Fr. coin

21. Do — others

22. Extremely

23. Demolishes

24. Hawk

25. Very dry

26. Anger

27. Investigation

28. Neuron part

29. Navigator

30. Asian nurse

31. Gentle

32. Timefold

33. Donated

34. Considerable

35. Beasts of burden

36. Afr. antelope

37. Down

38. Former champ

39. Propensity

40. Apple

41. Slames

42. Map part

43. Orchestra section

44. Gaelic

45. Warble

46. Crystal-gazer

47. Edam or Gouda

48. 11 Ad —

49. 12 Residue

50. 13 Moderate, prof.

51. 21 Brings up

52. 22 Ravage

53. 23 Danish money

54. 24 Calm

55. 25 Rainbow-shaped

56. 26 Comedies

57. 27 Complain

58. 28 "For — a jolly good —"

59. 29 Banquet base

60. 30 Too

61. 31 Asian holiday

62. 32 Warbucks

63. 33 Quilt pro —

64. 34 Map part

65. 35 Alley of the

66. 36 comics

67. 37 Gaelic

68. 38 A Harrison

69. 39 Emulates

70. 40 Bryant

71. 41 Hole —

72. 52 Judicial proceedings

73. 53 Red planet

74. 54 Wading

75. 55 bird

76. 56 Othello's friend?

77. 58 Sheriff or

78. 59 Bradley

79. 60 Defense force

80. 61 Sum. abbr.

81. 62 12

82. 63 Aged

83. 64 Spell

S. Arabia exports wheat to Soviet Union, China

RIYADH (AP) — The Soviet Union has judged Saudi Arabian wheat "healthy and nutritious" and bought large quantities of it, the newspaper Al Riyadh reported Tuesday.

It quoted Sheikh Saleh Al Suleiman, director of grain silos, who said an initial 50,000-ton shipment of Saudi wheat was already on its way to Moscow. It also said 300,000 tons recently went to the People's Republic of China.

The shipment of wheat to the Soviet Union was seen as a cautious, non-diplomatic bridge to Moscow.

Saudi Arabia began experimenting with low-water wheat cultivation in desert areas about a decade ago.

Critics claimed the practice was unjustifiably costly, and the United States in recent years offered instead to sell wheat to Saudi Arabia at considerably lower costs. Saudi Arabian officials rejected the suggestion as an attempt to meddle in the kingdom's domestic affairs.

Saudi officials say that experimentation has brought wheat cultivation costs down to almost the level of those for American wheat.

The Saudis last year donated wheat to Egypt, which until recent centuries was so rich in wheat it was called "the granary of Rome."

Other Arab countries also received shipments of Saudi wheat. Full details of the Soviet wheat deal were not immediately available.

Prices of basic commodities post 624% rise in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Prices of basic items like eggs and soap, tea and rice increased more than sevenfold in Lebanon this year, according to an economy ministry survey.

The survey said 30 basic commodities went up by an average of 624 per cent from the beginning of the year up to mid-December.

Cheese prices rose by 463 per cent, eggs by 723 per cent, soap and detergents by 600 per cent, meat by 500 per cent, tea by 700 per cent, coffee by 312 per cent, rice by 805 per cent, cereals by 775 per cent, said the survey, published in local newspapers on Tuesday.

The prices of many goods in Lebanon have been rising almost weekly, sometimes daily, this year largely because of a collapse in the value of the Lebanese lira.

The lira has lost more than 82 per cent of its value this year, fuelling inflation to an estimated 700 per cent.

Love affair with dollar continues

Meanwhile, while much of the world shies away from the dollar, Lebanon's love affair with it continues unabated.

Youngsters wear T-shirts with the legend: "I love you, dollar." Pets and even a restaurant have been named after the greenback.

The American currency, widely accepted here as a hedge against inflation, has entered the lives of the Lebanese and turned them into a nation of speculators.

Once, when the dollar's value dropped sharply, a dozen people were reported taken to hospital with heart attacks.

A Beirut holding a radio to his ear in the street is more likely to be checking exchange rates than bomb blasts or militia fighting.

Shopkeepers use dollars to price goods, ignoring threats from the government that this is illegal. People rush to turn their

Gulf Arab states call for halt to oil price discounting

RIYADH (R) — Gulf Arab oil states called on Tuesday for a halt to oil price discounting and urged non-OPEC producers to cut output to support world prices.

At the end of a four-day summit in the Saudi capital, the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued a communique stressing the need to stick to OPEC agreements on quotas to defend an \$18 a barrel oil price.

"Leaders stressed the necessity of abiding by OPEC resolutions ... and stopping direct and indirect discounts," said the communique, according to an unofficial translation.

"The council calls on non-OPEC states to cooperate with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to achieve stability in the market by reducing their surplus production."

The GCC groups OPEC members Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with Bahrain and Oman, who support OPEC policies although they are not members.

Lack of price and quota discipline in OPEC brought prices tumbling in mid-December in a glutted world oil market, although prices firmed over the past week on hopes Kuwait and the UAE would rein in production.

But spot prices for Dubai's benchmark crude are still almost \$2.5 below the official OPEC selling price.

"How do the Gulf states think they will make up the difference between the market and official prices," one Gulf-based oil executive commented on the communique.

Saudi Arabia has fiercely resisted pressure from foreign buyers to sell at a discount, but industry executives said the world glut is increasing pressure for hidden discounts and lower prices linked to the non-OPEC or spot market.

A Saudi oil official told Reuters on Monday the kingdom would not sell oil below official prices unless overproduction by other OPEC members seriously threatened its market share.

The six states also ratified at their summit an agreement to lend each other oil to keep exports — and revenue — flowing in times of emergency.

Oil industry executives said the accord was designed to cope with incidents such as October's Silk-worm missile attack on Kuwait's sea island loading terminal which the emirate blamed on Iran.

Meanwhile, Indonesia has served notice on OPEC it will not be bound by the group's latest price and production agreement if other members cheat.

South East Asia's largest nation made the warning public as some Gulf states came under intense pressure to offer discounts in the face of falling world spot oil prices.

Mr. Abdul Rachman Ramly, head of the state oil company Pertamina, said Indonesia had issued the warning to fellow members of OPEC during their meeting in Vienna in mid-December.

Indonesia's official Antara News Agency quoted Mr. Ramly as saying during a briefing for Indonesian editors on Monday that Jakarta would consider itself free of any OPEC commitments if other members contravened the output limits.

He said Energy Minister Subroto had served notice Indonesia would not tolerate further quota or price violations.

Indonesia, the world's fifth largest country with a population of 172 million, depends heavily on oil to keep its economy afloat, and has been angered by Gulf countries threatening the oil price by producing above their quota.

All OPEC members apart from Iraq agreed in Vienna to extend for another six months their current output and price accord to defend a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

The compromise, worked out after days of wrangling, holds the 12 to produce only 15.06 million barrels per day of crude in the first six months of 1988. The agreement has sent spot oil prices tumbling because of high oil stocks accumulated as a result of previous OPEC overproduction.

Mr. Ramly said Dr. Subroto took the unusual step in Vienna of stating that Indonesia "reserves the right not to be part of the agreement any more should members continue to violate it."

A Pertamina spokesman confirmed Antara's account of the briefing held to coincide with Pertamina's 30th anniversary.

Industry sources said Gulf oil states were under intense pressure to offer price discounts in the face of falling world oil prices.

Oil analysts in New York said Saudi Arabia may soon be forced to offer incentives to buyers if it wanted to sell its full quota of crude oil in a glutted market.

Dr. Subroto said last week that OPEC's price monitoring committee, of which Indonesia is a member, would watch the market closely over the next few weeks and could call an extraordinary meeting of the group if the \$18 reference price no longer looked defensible.

Antara quoted Mr. Ramly as saying the Vienna meeting which he attended was the most difficult for OPEC so far, apparently because of an escalation in the Gulf war and the different interests of member countries.

According to the Indonesian daily Merdeka, Mr. Ramly also forecast that oil prices in 1988 would not drop sharply as the OPEC output ceiling was the same as for 1987, and demand would be at least as strong as over the past year.

Mr. Ramly said Nigeria, Indonesia and Venezuela had become moderate voices within OPEC, often acting as intermediaries to help settle differences within the grouping.

Dollar hovers near historic lows

LONDON (R) — The dollar hung perilously to values barely above Monday's historic lows on Tuesday and knock-on effects of its decline included a dramatic fall on London's stock market.

The dollar in Europe's morning traded around 1.59 Deutsche marks and 123 Japanese yen, just off all-time lows quoted on Monday of 1.5870 and 122.75, dealers said. Gold was little changed, set at \$489.55 an ounce in the London market.

London's Stock Exchange reopened after a Christmas break and promptly extended a worldwide retreat of share prices which had taken Wall Street

Poland urges tax reform

WARSAW (AP) — The government announced Monday that it will restructure income taxes, introduce a value-added tax next year, and endorse a budget containing a deficit equivalent of \$1.17 billion.

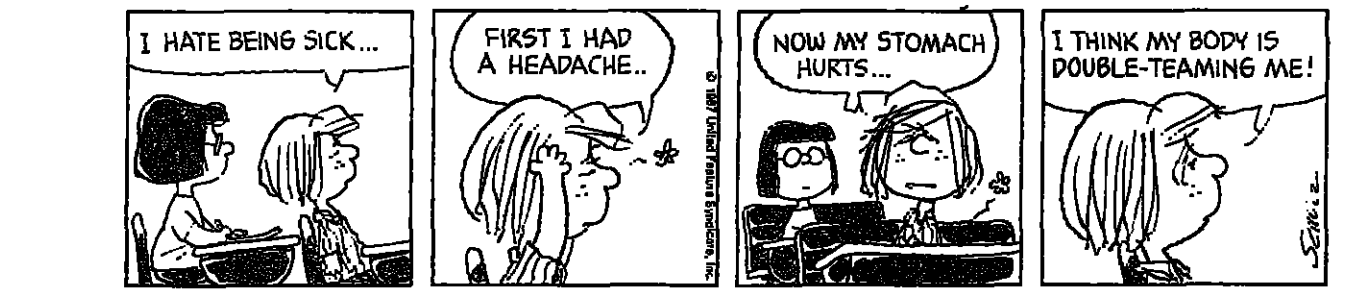
The government also announced that inflation was 26 per cent this year.

Finance Minister Bazyli Samojlik told the parliament, or Sejm, that the budget deficit in 1988 would rise to 369.6 billion zlotys (\$1.17 billion) compared with a current 300 billion-zloty (\$952 million) deficit.

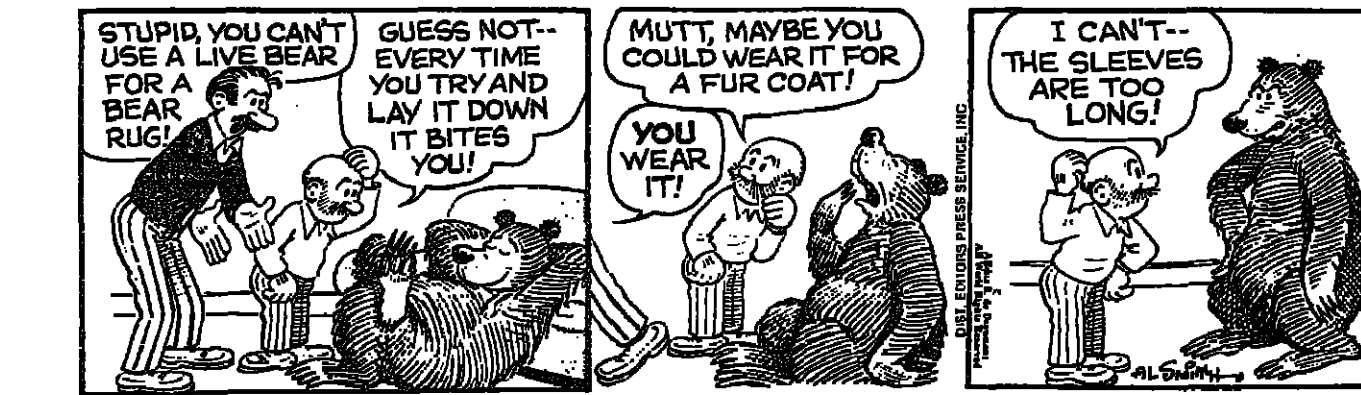
Mr. Samojlik said that to avoid a further increase in the 1988 deficit, it is necessary to limit investments and curb subsidies for state-run enterprises, while raising taxes paid by factories.

He added that the government would unveil by June a plan to "restructure the tax system"

Peanuts



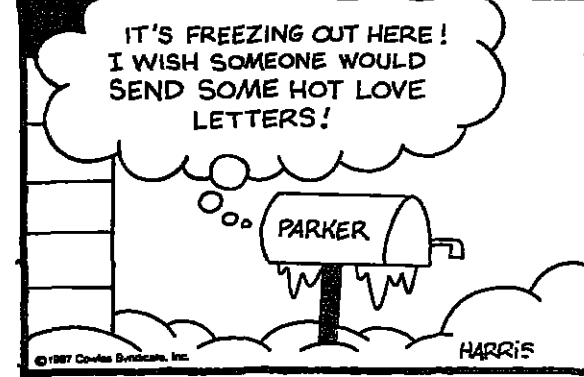
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FRASC

LAWRC

AMSOUF

REBARL

Now I know what to get him for Christmas

WHAT TO GIVE THE MAN WHO ALWAYS WEARS LOUD TIES.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OAKEN GUESS STYLUS DRAGON

Answer: What some small talk comes in— LARGE DOSES

Protesters set off bombs, burn buses during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (R) — Protesters in Bangladesh set off small bombs and set buses afire on Tuesday during the latest opposition-led strike against President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Police said the strikers exploded home-made bombs — tiny canisters filled with explosives and metal fragments — across the capital Dhaka during the eight-hour strike. No injuries were reported.

At least two government buses on the streets in defiance of the strike were burned, police said. Riot police used truncheons to break up demonstrators and opposition sources said at least 10 protesters were injured. Police said five activists were arrested.

The strike on Tuesday was the 16th since 21 opposition parties began a campaign on Nov. 10 to force Gen. Ershad to resign.

Only a few cycle rickshaws and trucks carrying squads of paramilitary police travelled along the shuttered streets of Dhaka, a city of four million. Most businesses were closed although banks

stayed open.

A committee linking the opposition parties described the strike "as yet another success" and said it would announce new anti-Ershad campaign to at a mass rally on Sunday.

Gen. Ershad imposed a state of emergency last month to thwart the opposition campaign and dissolved parliament. But he promised to hold fresh elections.

Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain said such elections might take place by March 5. He said the election commission might soon announce details.

The 21 parties have said they would not take part in any new elections unless Gen. Ershad handed over power to a caretaker government. Gen. Ershad, however, has refused to resign under pressure.

Mr. Hossain, secretary-general

of the ruling Jatiya Party, said the government would go ahead with the election plans even if the opposition parties did not take part.

He also rejected the demand for neutral caretaker government, saying the constitution did not permit such an arrangement.

"They are actually afraid of elections because they know the verdict will go against them," Mr. Hossain told a party meeting on Monday.

"They know it well that people will not vote for them because of their past misdeeds. So they want to grab power by indulging in strikes and demonstrations," Gen. Ershad told a rally outside Dhaka last week.

"But they ought to know as well that there is no short-cut to power. Anyone seeking a change of government must win the people's verdict in the elections," he said.

11 hurt in ferry fire

DHAKA (AP) — About 10 people were burned or injured

when a ferry caught fire and sank in southern Bangladesh, officials said Tuesday.

The boat was carrying about 150 passengers — double its sanctioned capacity — when it caught fire Monday during its run from the southern island town of Patuakhali to the neighbouring trading centre of Galachipa, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The fire appeared to have started in the engine room but the exact cause of the blaze was not known, they said.

Patuakhali is about 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of the capital of Dhaka.

Officials told the Associated Press that most of the passengers panicked when they saw the fire and jumped into the river and swam ashore. Many of them were rescued by fishing boats nearby.

A district official said no bodies were found at or near the accident scene and dismissed as "totally baseless" reports that as many as 100 passengers were missing.

Cosmonauts land on target in Kazakhstan

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet Soyuz TM-3 space capsule landed on Tuesday on a snow-covered steppe in Soviet Kazakhstan, ending a record 327-day space mission aboard the orbiting space station Mir by cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko.

Soviet television said the spacecraft carrying Romanenko and fellow cosmonauts Alexander Alexandrov and Anatoly Levchenko parachuted down at 12.18 p.m. Moscow time (0918 GMT) near the town of Arkalik. Television said the capsule landed right on target despite winds blowing up to 14 metres (45 feet) per second.

It showed members of ground control breaking into wide grins as the landing was announced, some clapping their hands in victory.

The Soyuz TM-3 separated from the Mir space station three hours earlier, television reported. It showed pictures of the three earth-bound cosmonauts taking their leave of the new crew, Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov.

"It remains only to wish the new crew a happy and successful voyage in space," Romanenko said as he and his colleagues prepared to transfer from the space station to the capsule.

"We wish you a soft landing," Titov said in reply.

TASS later reported the official landing time as 12.15 p.m. (0915 GMT).

Romanenko, 43, made space history on Oct. 1, when he broke the previous record of 237 days in space set by three Soviet cosmonauts aboard Mir's predecessor, Salyut-7, in 1984.

6 Duvalierists register as presidential candidates

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Eight presidential aspirants, including six officials from the deposed Duvalier government, have registered to participate in government-run elections set for Jan. 17, officials have said.

The six had been barred from the November election under a provision in the constitution that prohibits all Duvalier supporters from running for public office for 10 years.

The Nov. 29 elections were cancelled only a few hours after they began because of violent attacks on voters blamed on Duvalier supporters and the army.

The six candidates are Clovis Desnor, Claude Raymond, Alphonse Lahens, Edouard Franquise, Jean Julme and Lesage Chery.

All held government positions under the Duvalier family dictatorship. Desnor was minister of finance under Francois Duvalier, Raymond served as army chief of staff during the critical transition period after the elder Duvalier's death in 1971, and Francois and Lahens both served in ministerial posts.

Desnor recently told the U.S. television network CBS that he was a "Duvalierist and proud of it." He had threatened to promote a civil war "if he couldn't run

16 killed in U.S. Christmas massacre

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas (R)

— The death toll in a Christmas holiday massacre here rose to 16 on Tuesday when police found seven more bodies in a grave and the bodies of two children in the trunks of abandoned cars.

Police said 14 of the victims were members of the family of former Air Force Sergeant R. Gene Simmons who has been charged with the shooting deaths of two coworkers.

The bodies of the latest victims were found near Simmons' home where police on Monday had discovered the bodies of five family members.

Police said although Simmons had been charged with only two murders so far he was suspected of involvement in all 16 deaths.

Police warrant officer Edie Deal said the shooting spree apparently started just before Christmas.

"The Christmas tree was up and all the presents were around it. The cold weather has made it difficult to pinpoint the time of death, but all indications are it was before Christmas," she said.

Police said on Monday Sim-

mons went on a shooting spree killing two former coworkers and wounding four others before surrendering.

Shortly after, officers went to his home where they found five bodies, covered with sheets and blankets.

They were tentatively identified as Simmons' son and daughter and their spouses, and a six-year-old child, believed to be his granddaughter.

Pope County sheriff said Simmons had refused to speak to officers. "He would not even open his mouth to us," he said.

Simmons maintained his silence in court on Tuesday when he was charged with the murders of 24-year-old divorcee Kathy Kendrick and firefighter James Chaffin, 33.

When asked if he was aware of his rights he merely nodded.

Monday's violence began about 10.15 a.m. when Simmons walked into the law offices of Richard Peel carrying two .22 calibre pistols and shot Kendrick, who worked as a receptionist there, in the head.

India frees 8 extremists

NEW DELHI (R) — Eight Marxist extremists have been freed from jail in southern India after their group abducted the same number of government officials, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported on Tuesday.

PTI quoted a senior civil servant as saying in Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh state, that Naxalite extremists from the People's War Group had been freed while talks continued for the release of the officials.

The Naxalites demanded the release of their comrades, who were arrested for the murder of six policemen in July.

Police commanders were sent to Andhra Pradesh on Monday to tackle the extremists.

The movement took its name from a 1967 peasant uprising in Naxalbari in eastern India.

It was outlawed in the early 1970s, but some bands still operate in eastern and southern India.

55 had simply been freed.

The police officer withheld the names of those sent to Kamunin Camp in the north for extended imprisonment.

However, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's spokesman said on Sunday that Lim Kit Siang, secretary-general of the main opposition Democratic Action Party, and party Vice-President Karpal Singh were among those who would continue to be detained.

Expelled Chinese intellectuals offered top advisory post

PEKING (R) — Two leading intellectuals who were expelled from China's Communist Party in January have been nominated to the country's top advisory body, Chinese sources said on Monday.

They said dissident scientist Fang Lizhi and journalist Liu Binyan had recently been nominated to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which consists largely of non-Communists and advises the government.

The sources said party chief Zhao Ziyang wanted to show that China could tolerate criticism and have it go through official channels. They said they did not know if the two would accept the nomination.

Fang, Liu and writer Wang Ruoshang were thrown out of the party in January, when party chief Hu Yaobang resigned for "ideological errors." They were vilified in the official media for advocating "bourgeois liberalism," meaning Western political ideas.

Fang, an astrophysicist, was also dismissed from his post as vice-chairman of the Chinese Science and Technology University in central China. He was allowed to visit Italy in May for an international science conference.

Shop till you drop — a U.K. tradition

LONDON (AP) — Tens of thousands of Londoners left their leftover turkey and plum puddings at home to indulge in another British holiday tradition — the post-Christmas sales. While city, London's financial district, was as empty as a ghost town, Oxford Street and Regent Street shopping districts were jammed with parcel-laden bargain hunters. After one of the busiest pre-Christmas shopping sprees retailers could recall, London still appeared to have money burning a hole in their pockets.

credit to spare on their charge cards. British retailers mark down their prices only twice a year, after Christmas and in August, savings are usually a hefty one-third to one-half off the regular prices. An American woman from New Jersey and her daughter who did not want to give their names, said they had no overnight to London specifically for the post-Christmas sale.

Straun Kerr camped on the pavement outside Debenhams Department Store on Oxford Street for nine days to raise money for the British Broadcasting Corp.'s Children in Need appeal.

Kerr, 21, who took donations from passers-by, was the first shopper through the doors Monday morning when he snatched a 26-inch (66-cm) television set reduced from £299.95 (\$557.90) just £10 (\$18.60). Kerr said he will donate the TV to the charity fund. Debenhams responded by giving him back his £10 (\$18) to add to the hundreds he had collected. The granddaddy of winter sales, at Harrods Department Store in Knightsbridge doesn't begin until Jan. 6.

Young paralysed woman found dead

KARLSRUHE, West Germany (AP) — A 27-year-old paralysed woman who had previously requested doctors to put her to death was found dead from "unnatural causes," authorities said Monday. However, an Augsburg-based society supporting Euthanasia said a sympathiser gave the woman cyanide at her request. The woman, identified only as "Daniela," was found dead in her home near Karlsruhe in Baden-Wuerttemberg state on Dec. 23, spokesman from the city prosecutor's office said.

Public debate about the legal and moral grounds for Euthanasia has surrounded the paralysed woman since she requested well-known doctor to put her to death last March. Dr. J. H. Hachthal took the case to court, and on Dec. 21 was forbidden by the Karlsruhe court to aid in the woman's death. Hachthal told the Saarländischen Rundfunk radio station in interview Monday that he informed the woman of the court decision on Dec. 22. Police are now looking for an unidentified Swiss woman the Euthanasia Society said gave the paralysed patient cyanide to be taken through a straw.

The four, united as the Committee for Democratic Agreement, have accused Desnor, Raymond and Lahens of direct involvement in killings, arson attacks and terrorism that marred the November balloting.

Philippine ferry 'could not have been at fault'

MANILA (Agencies) — A Philippine shipping company official on Tuesday defended the structural soundness of the ferry Dona Paz, which sank after a collision earlier this month taking 2,000 people with it into the sea.

Captain Plutarco Bawagan told a court of inquiry into the world's worst peacetime marine disaster that the 2,215-ton Dona Paz could not have been at fault.

He said it must have been rammed by the 629-ton oil tanker Vector.

The Dona Paz was so strong that if the collision had been the other way round — if the ferry had rammed the tanker — "it would have been like a truck smashing into a mini-car," he said.

Capt. Bawagan said if the Dona Paz had been at fault it would not have sunk.

His testimony came amid charges in the Philippine Congress that the Dona Paz, owned by the Sulpicio Lines, may have been carrying up to 3,500 people. Only 26 people survived the

Dec. 20 collision off Mindoro Island.

"If the Dona Paz was the one which rammed the Vector, she would have survived. She was built with a collision bulkhead. She would never, never have sunk," Capt. Bawagan told the five-man court guard panel.

Capt. Bawagan said the Dona Paz, with a 50-man crew, was authorised to carry up to 1,518 passengers.

Coast guard officials have said the ship had a passenger manifest of 1,493, but survivors say it was carrying hundreds more, including many un ticketed children.

The ferry owners said they had no exact figures.

Congressman Raul Daza said on Monday an unofficial list of passengers indicated the ship was possibly carrying up to 3,500 people.

Mr. Daza said the list, drawn up by a radio station, was based on reports from people still looking for relatives they believe were on board.

Sulpicio Lines deny the ship was overloaded and say its journey had been cleared by the coast guard.

An investigating official said Tuesday his panel may never know what caused the collision of a passenger ship and the oil tanker.

At the investigative hearing on the crash, lawyers for the two shipping companies involved blamed each other.

"We are fearful that we may not be able to establish what really happened for lack of reliable first-hand knowledge," said Rudy Villanueva, officer of a panel probing the collision.

Villanueva told the Associated Press that the biggest difficulty facing the five-member investigatory board was finding qualified witnesses to establish the two vessels' relative positions when the collision occurred.

None of the Dona Paz 60 crewmen survived, and only two of the 629-ton Vector's 13 crewmen were rescued.

Afghan rebels deny Kabul report of heavy losses

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Afghan rebels battling the government in Kabul denied heavy losses and said up to 1,500 Soviet paratroopers and 20,000 Afghan troops remain trapped in the Afghan city of Khost.

They dismissed reports by Radio Kabul on Monday that Afghan troops had killed 1,603 guerrillas in a battle to reopen the

road leading to Khost.

Rebels have held control for nearly a decade of the sole ground route between Khost, near the border with Pakistan, and Gardez.

"The Security of the Gardez-Khost Highway has now been ensured," Radio Kabul said in a broadcast monitored in Islamabad.

Sandinistas honour Canadian volunteer killed in blast

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Foreigners filed silently by the coffin of a Canadian volunteer honoured by the leftist government Monday after she was killed Christmas Day in a grenade explosion in a northern Nicaraguan hotel.

About 35 representatives of coffee-harvesting brigades from Italy, Australia, Great Britain and East Germany took turns standing in silent vigils by the coffin of Jennifer Green, a 26-year-old co-worker.

Ms. Green, of Hamilton, Ontario, and a Nicaraguan army officer, 2nd Lt. Roger Mendez Zenon, were killed Friday when a grenade exploded in her hotel room in Matagalpa, 80 miles (128 kilometres) north of Managua, the capital.

The government called the explosion an accident, but the Canadian government and Ms. Green's family are seeking further information on how the explosion occurred.

The Canadian press late Monday quoted Green's brother as saying that a Nicaraguan soldier has been detained in connection with the deaths.

"My father just called (from Nicaragua) and said there is a soldier in detention," Brian Green, of Toronto, was quoted as saying.

Ms. Green was one of 24 Canadians helping to pick this year's coffee crop. Thousands of foreign volunteers help harvest coffee each year because of a shortage of labour caused by the U.S.-supported contra rebel war.

Ms. Green's closed brown wooden coffin was carried into the headquarters of the government-run Nicaraguan Committee for People's Solidarity.

Meanwhile the opposition newspaper La Prensa has complained that a spoof of it published by the ruling party newspaper was a threat to freedom of expression and threatened to sue for slander.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold. **4AK9852 ♠ 2 ♣J9 ♠K103**
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass